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ACROSS / A21
Explosion destroys Basilan inn; 2 other bombs detonated

ACROSS / A21
Chinoy trader released in Maguindanao

NEWS / A2
Summon GMA, solon prods House panel

ENTERTAINMENT / G1
'Kaos,' perfectly justifiable indulgence

LEARNING / I4
Part 2: How to help children go online

7,000 defy Taal Volcano warning

TAAL VOLCANO simmered down yesterday after rattling the area with several dozen tremors and prompting warnings for residents to evacuate.

Nearly 300 families fled, but the rest of the 7,000 residents had so far ignored Alert Level 2 issued by the Philippine Institute of Volcanology

TURN TO P18

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS. FEARLESS VIEWS

Marcos burial resolution tears to shreds Edsa mandate

By Amando Doronila

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 1130 sealing the burial of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos at Libingan ng mga Bayani turned on its head the policy mandate of the 1986 Edsa People Power Revolution that toppled his 14-year dictatorship.

The resolution, signed by 214 congressmen Ba

gantly defied the sovereign will of the people expressed by their uprising in the streets on Feb. 22-25, 1986, restoring democracy. Certain

ANALYSIS

provisions in the Constitution banned the burial of Marcos' body on the battleground grounds of the former cemetery, according him the honor of a national hero.

This is all to dishonor of the memory of Edsa I.

MARCOS ON A4

Don't dumb down viewers, TV urged

Actress, solon seek quality programs

By Nair Guerrero

EVEN THE theater star who brought "The Vagina Monologues" to the Philippine stage is aghast.

The list of Willie Revillame's crimes now includes acclaimed actress-director Monique Wilson, who called on local artists to band together, overcome fears of creating potential misfortune, and help put the pressure on TV networks that "dumb down" the Filipino audience.

"We keep saying Filipino artists are world-class. Well, let's prove it now," Wilson wrote on her blog as she weighed in on the latest controversy

TURN TO P18

involving the quiz-show host.

"The debate is no longer whether a star child shines or not," Wilson said, referring to the widely criticized episode of Revillame's "Willing Willie" show on TV5 that had a 6-year-old boy gyrating like a macho dancer while breaking into tears for a P1,000 cash prize.

"The facts are plain to see. No one with a sense of respect for another human being can dispute that," Wilson said.

"The discussion now is how we, as Filipinos, as artists involved in the same industry that created Willie Revillame and shows like his, could have allowed this to go on for as long as it has."

An honor Usually used international, Wilson has dozens of productions to her name as actress, director and producer, most famously her lead performance alternating with Lea Salonga in the original West End production of "Miss Saigon" in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

The theater company she founded

BOWIE ON A18

HOMING TALENT Chelsea Garcia, a student of Philippine High School for the Arts in Mount Makiling in Los Baños town in Laguna, exhibits her portrait paintings. —

World-class artists bred in this school

MOUNT MAKILING, Laguna—Tucked in the trees nearest the slopes of Mount Makiling, the country's premier public school for the arts is busy molding the country's future cultural ambassadors.

The gifted scholars embark on a rigorous, 12-hour daily routine of academic study mixed in dance, theater, visual arts and creative writing at the nine-hectare Philippine High School for the Arts.

Surrounded by green woods, the atmosphere at the 13 hectares campus is far removed from chaotic urban sprawl.

A picturesque view of the Laguna de Bay below provides a calming scene from the cottages on the campus, about a two-hour drive south of Manila.

"Our dream and goal is to establish the Filipino spirit—that we are good, that we can excel," the school's executive director and music priest, Gemino Cabaig, told Agence France-Presse.

"We are doing this because art and culture are the windows to the soul of the people, they nurture our spirit."

The school began as a mere informal haven for young artists in the 1970s.

It was established by then first lady Imelda Marcos, who lavished time and money on the

WORLD-CLASS ON A18

WORLD-CLASS School graduate Candice Silva, 24, who won the silver medal in last year's LISA Ballet International Competition, rendered the Odyssia of dance, practices at Manila's Cultural Center of the Philippines. —

BUSINESS SUIT "Starstruck yours!" Carlos Arzola, 37, sells newspapers in Lucena City.

Newsboy delivers papers—in style

By Dodie T. Mallari Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LUCENA CITY—For Carlos Arzola, 37, selling newspapers is a noble profession.

Thus, even as he conducts his daily work on a rickety bicycle—rain or shine, seven days a week—he sports a cheerful colored polo with a matching colorful necktie, ragged pants and a hairdo.

Be bright days, Arzola knocks on the

NEWSBOY ON A18

Radioactivity to last decades

TOKYO—Clean Japan's leaky nuclear complex stops spewing radiation and its contents cool down, removing the ruined equipment is going to be a decade and cost hundreds of millions of dollars.

Radiation has covered the area around the Fukushima Daiichi Power Station and blanketed parts of the complex, making the job of "decommissioning" the plant—rendering it safe so it doesn't threaten public health and the environment—a bigger task than normal.

Tokyo Electric Power Station Corp., which supplied four of Fukushima's six reactors, including two on which General Electric Co. collaborated, submitted a road map this past week to the plant's operator for decommissioning the crippled reactors.

The study, done with three other companies, projects that it would take about 30 years to remove the fuel rods and the reactors and contain other radioactivity in the site, said Brendan Omori of Tepdon.

The timeline is for those fuel rods that have not melted or corroded a big extent. The reactors must first be stabilized and cooled, goals that have eluded emergency teams struggling with cascading problems in the immediate the March 11 tsunami damaged their cooling systems.

Omori said the extent of damage in the reactors and other problems still notched in

RADIOACTIVITY A10

Metro kids offer peace cranes

AN OFFER of a thousand peace cranes from a group of children in Metro Manila is among the responses the Philippine Daily Inquirer (PDI) has received days after putting up its relief drive for victims of the triple disasters in Japan.

The cranes are two-centimeter origami from the Philippine Embassy in Japan journeyed to Fukushima prefecture yesterday to bring relief goods to Filipinos there who have been displaced by the massive emergency resulting from the 9-magnitude earthquake and tsunami

METRO KIDS

Second FRONTPAGE

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Senate should call GMA, Mike–solon

Impeach case against Gutierrez weak, says Arroyos' former lawyer

By Gil Cabacungan and TJ Burgonio

FORMER President and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, her husband and her former Cabinet officials should be compelled to take the witness stand in the impeachment trial of Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez in the Senate, Rep. Walden Bello said.

Bello, representing the party-list group Akbayan, said getting Arroyo (above) to appear on sensitive matters would boost the chances of convicting Gutierrez.

Bello noted that Arroyo and her Cabinet were able to evade previous investigations such as the one on the fertilizer fund scam and NBN-ZTE deal when Arroyo was in office.

"I am not part of the House legal team, but yes, I would push that we subpoena all of them since they have a direct bearing on all the issues cited in the impeachment complaint," said Bello.

Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. said he has left the decision on who would be called as witnesses to the House prosecution team and their private counsels. "I am not part of that (decision-making) anymore," said Belmonte in a text message.

Short list of witnesses

One of the prosecutors, Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Neri Colmenares said the short list of witnesses would be determined after the articles of impeachment is adopted among the 11-member prosecution team, and this came to be Saturday.

Colmenares said he expected to take the lead on the fertilizer scam and the hacienda-owning struggling son of the "iron general" and would tap the National Union of People's Lawyers for litigation and research support.

"We will meet next week and we will announce our list of witnesses soon," said Colmenares.

Congress voted to impeach Gutierrez, a classmate of former Pres. Gen. Fidel Ramos' son Rep. Mikey Arroyo, for "betrayal of the public trust" for aiding on corruption cases involving the former First Couple and their allies.

The impeachment case has been forwarded to the Senate for trial.

Gutierrez has said she is confident of being acquitted in the Senate. She only needs eight senators on her side for acquittal.

Why hire private firm?

The ex-election lawyer of Arroyo, Romulo Macalintal, has worried the House prosecution panel over its plan to tap a private firm to prosecute Gutierrez.

"[This] exposes the weakness of the prosecution case," Macalintal said in a text message.

Macalintal observed that the prosecution had impressed on the public that it had a "strong case" against Gutierrez during the hearings, and not its decision to hire private lawyers behind this.

"If it were strong, even a neophyte congressman's lawyer could prove the case without help from a private firm," he said. "But to seek the help of an outsider belies the strength of its evidence and exposes its weaknesses."

The prosecution panel, headed by Iloilo Rep. Niel Tupas Jr., had said he was mulling hiring the Villanueva Cruz Marcelo & Associates law office for Gutierrez's impeachment trial next month.

The firm had been closely associated with Arroyo and her husband Jose Miguel Arroyo, until the two camps had a falling-out.

One of its managing partners, Gutierrez's predecessor Simeon Marcelo, was a key member of the team that prosecuted President Joseph Estrada in his impeachment trial in 2000.

Sen. Francis Escudero had contended that the prosecution panel's challenge would be to prove that Gutierrez's inaction on the cases involving Arroyo et al. constituted betrayal of the public trust, a ground for impeachment that he said was found only in the Philippine Constitution.

Macalintal also raised the issue of ethics on the prosecution's plan to hire "The Firm" given its previous association with the Arroyos.

'Tingting' resigns from safety college

By Christine O. Avendaño

PRESIDENT Aquino's sure, Margarita "Tingting" Cojuangco, is no longer head of the Philippine Public Safety College (PPSC), a job she held for almost seven years since being appointed during the Arroyo administration.

Malacañang announced yesterday that the President had appointed Bohol Rep. Edgar Chatto, officer in charge of the PPSC General Administrative Services, as acting president of the college that trains members of the Philippine National Police, Bureau of Fire Protection and Bureau of Jail Management and Penology.

Contacted by the Inquirer, Cojuangco said she resigned out of "delicadeza" (propriety) because she had been appointed by the former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

She was appointed in September 2004, she said, adding she's thankful to Arroyo. "For trusting me."

"I could have removed herself on her appointment but out of delicadeza I will leave the position. I believe my studies have prepared me (for)," Cojuangco said in a text message.

But she will remain connected to PPSC as another capacity.

She said she was asked to remain at PPSC "to concentrate on linkages, a road map for (PPSC special studies and research)," and that she would accept the offer.

"Edcom (Edgar Chatto, The President) appointed him," she also said.

Chatto was appointed to the position on March 30, according to the Palace.

Cojuangco is the wife of businessman Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, brother of the late former President Corazon Aquino, mother of President Aquino.

Musicophile, Abby said she still had to find out from the Palace the status of Boy Cruz as now that Malacañang has created a new body to help Filipinos in conflict areas abroad.

President Aquino has signed Executive Order No. 64 which establishes the Overseas Philippines and Response Team and which replaces the Presidential Middle East Overseas Contractor that used to be headed by Cruz.

On the same radio program, Valte announced other Palace appointments, among them, seven members of the board of the Subic Bay Corp.

They were Jaime Elmer Ag. Inciong, Mariano Bordoy, Aurora Cannon Jr., Cesar Cruzeiro, Antonio Tengco and Lawrence Wachsberg.

The President also appointed members of the Board of Administrators of the Cooperative Development Authority namely Nelson Allenkgay, Cooperative Legal, Pendatun Dimaukan (Mindanao) and Soliviano Acosta. Except for Acosta whose term expires on July 30, 2012, the two others' terms expire on July 30, 2016.

Also appointed were Guillermo Luz as member of the Station of Competitiveness Council representing the private sector; Alexander Aprio, member of the board of directors representing the labor sector of the Philippine Health Insurance Corp.; and Misty Grace Rivera as executive director of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas.

Court orders Imelda to pay back ₱12M taken from NFA

THE SANDIGANBAYAN'S fifth division has ordered former first lady Imelda Marcos to pay back the government P12 million illegally taken from the National Food Authority (NFA).

A two-page writ of execution was issued against the widow of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos last week to be implemented by Sandiganbayan Sheriff Edgardo Ebdia.

The antigraft court said the writ, one is now serving as a representative of Baron Travel, should pay the amount within 30 days from the receipt of the order.

The P12 million included P10 million in refinery award by Philippine National Lines, the 100% shipping company and deposited in a private account in 1985, and P2 million for travel damages and litigation costs.

The writ came seven months after the Sandiganbayan found the Marcos couple guilty of diverting NFA funds.

The antigraft court said then Presidents Marcos had verbally instructed NFA Administrator Jesus Tarroja to withdraw the funds. Tarrojacharges testified that he delivered the funds to the treasury bank office in Makati.

If Imelda Marcos could not settle the amount, the court said she should provide a list of properties and assets to cover it. — Bridine L. Olaez

IMELDA Marcos

Marcos burial resolution tears to shreds Edsa mandate

From page A1

The campaign to establish our Marcos immediately whipped up a storm of controversy over the issue of the whether he deserved to be buried at the military cemetery, burial grounds of succeeding presidents and of the public, including two past Presidents Diosdado Macapagal and Carlos P. Garcia, military leaders and men of letters.

The clamor against the Marcos resolution was led by the powerful Catholic Church, which was the Marcos regime's principal protagonist during the dictatorship.

The Catholic Educational Associations of the Philippines (CEAP), the largest organized group of Catholic schools and institutions, issued a strongly worded statement on the commemoration of Araw ng Kagitingan, honoring Filipino soldiers who fought heroically to resist the superior forces of Japanese invaders on Bataan 69 years ago.

The CEAP called on the government who signed the House resolution to withdraw their signatories, warning them not to be part of the attempt to revise or falsify history. The statement bluntly said the resolution would "desecrate" Edsa I.

The organization pointedly denounced claims of Marcos supporters that he was a war hero in Ilocos, and went on to say that the massive corruption of the dictatorship and the economy to its knees, turning the Philippines into the "sick man" of Asia.

Epic clash

HR 1331 triggered an epic clash over two great political traditions that have defined the themes of political discourse during the past 35 years.

The discourse is framed by the demolition of Philippine democracy and the establishment of a dictatorship in September 1972 and by the restoration of democracy with the Edsa People Power Revolution of February 1986.

For two decades, these traditions have marked the cleavage line along which Philippine politics has polarized.

Once again, the dictatorship-to-democratic restoration paradigm has been forced up to the surface with the House initiative seeking the political rehabilitation of Marcos and legitimizing the dictatorial legacy of his regime.

The House resolution was a sharp attack to overturn the doctrine that Edsa I ended the dictatorship. The resolution was an emphatic and direct reversal by the people of their sovereign right to change regimes.

Attack on mandate

No legislative act of elected representatives of the people in parliament can revoke that mandate of the Edsa People Power Revolution.

Thus, HR 1135 clearly contravenes the mandate of Edsa I by abolishing the dictatorship and cannot be used by members of Congress to engineer the reinstatement of the Marcos dictatorial legacy and vindicate the regime with the flimsy argument that burying Marcos at LNMB would help Imee Beyond would bring to a closure the dark episode of the dictatorship, promote national reconciliation and allow the country to "move on" toward national unity.

Those who signed the resolution are members of a political institution that was one of the first to be published by Marcos when he declared martial law.

The lawmakers have also become the beneficiaries of a free and independent legislature that was restored by President Corazon Aquino in the wake of the 1986 revolution.

And yet they are now at the forefront of the campaign to restore the legacy of the Marcos regime, ignoring in the process the fact that Edsa I was the source of the abolition of the dictatorship and the restoration of Philippine democracy.

The congressmen are not to stop with reductionism. They are swimming against the historic tide of democratic restoration following Edsa I.

They are backsliding to the era when congress performed as a rubber stamp of the dictatorship. The congressmen would find it hard to claim that their resolution represents the sentiments of the people in regard to Marcos' rehabilitation.

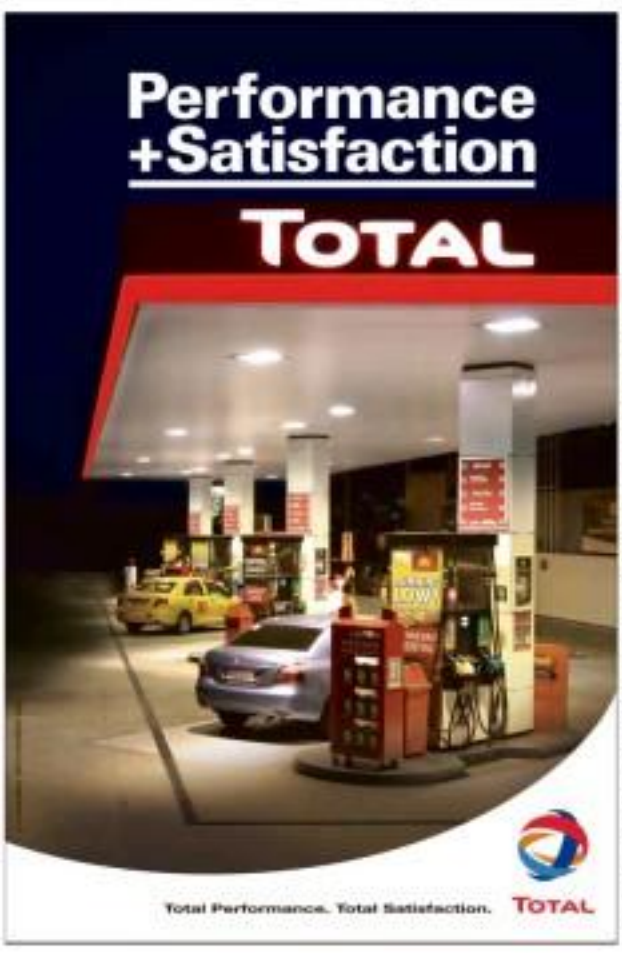
No accountability

When the Philippines accepted the dictatorship in Edsa I, we didn't make a clean break with a sordid past. Even with the restoration of democratic structures we have remained chained to the past.

Representatives of the people in Congress have been beguiled by the false argument that the rehabilitation of Marcos is an act of "statesmanship" that can throw wide open the gates of national reconciliation.

Under this approach, there is no recognition of accountability. There is no restoration of wrongdoing and no expression of remorse for the plunder of public wealth and the deaths, disappearances and torture of victims in military "safe houses" of the dictatorship's gulag system.

The Marcos heirs are back to positions of power and influence after five elections, flaunting their wealth, and insulting the Edsa People Power Revolution as if it never happened. There is no reconciliation without justice and no restoration of guilt. The House resolution has torn to shreds the people power mandate that rejected the dictatorship.



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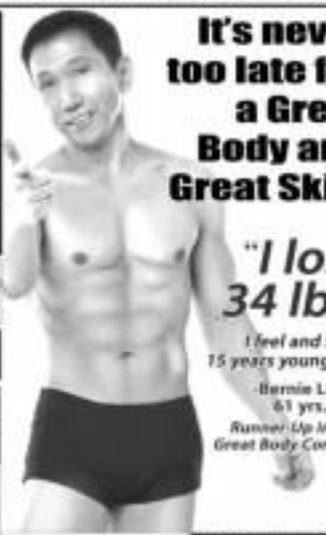

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Minors in Cafgu ranks not intended, says AFP

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE MILITARY has admitted that some ground commanders might have unknowingly accepted minors into the ranks of its paramilitary forces, after its attention was called by a United Nations official.

Col. Domingo Tutaan, head of the newly created Armed Forces of the Philippines Human Rights Office, said the military was aware that boys under 18 were not allowed in the Citizen Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu).

During a meeting last week, Tutaan reportedly told UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict Radhika Coomaraswamy that he would not guarantee that there were no minors in the Cafgu ranks.

But he admitted the recruitment of minors might have been "inadvertently undertaken without the purpose of really recruiting a minor."

He said this was possible since in the final areas, Cafgu recruits did not have birth certificates. Parents and community leaders might have recommended the boys to the military commanders, he said.

Tutaan said they would not shirk from reports about minors in the Cafgu.

"If we find that there is still a minor involved in conflict, then we have to undertake the corrective measures," Tutaan was quoted in a press statement issued by the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP).

OPAPP Secretary Teresita Quintos Deles also attended the meeting along with representatives of other government agencies.

The Philippine Army reportedly has about 58,000 Cafgu members who receive a P96 daily allowance for part-time duty.

Military officials said many local government officials ask for an increase in the number of paramilitary forces, especially in remote areas where military troops can not regularly come.

In a news conference Friday, Commissioner appointed the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) had agreed to discuss an action plan to stop using children in its guerrilla unit, the New People's Army.

"They did not categorically say that they have children in their ranks[...] maybe for legal reasons, but they have admitted indirectly that this is a problem by agreeing to work toward an action plan," she said.

The NPA has been silent on allegations it has child guerrillas in its ranks.

But the AFP reported that 246 child insurgents were neutralized from January 1999 to January 2011. Of these, 215 surrendered, 121 were captured while 11 were killed.

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JOY IN KAZAKHSTAN Former Speaker Jose de Venecia, chair of the Asian Political Parties, awards to Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev a medallion for his services as president of the Organization of the Manila Conference, Organization for Security and Cooperation Europe, and the Istanbul's Dialogues, as well as for giving up Kazakhstan's nuclear arsenal which was the fourth largest in the world. Nazarbayev once served training radiation recently.

Palace to study Jalandoni raps

By Christine O. Avendaño

MALACAÑANG is studying whether or not to pursue the administrative cases filed before it against Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon Mark Jalandoni following his resignation last week.

Deputy Presidential Spokesperson Abigail Valte said yesterday she would speak to Palace lawyers on the status of the cases against Jalandoni now that he "is resigned and not holding office."

"Some would say it might be moot and academic as we have in abstentia is," Valte told government radio dzRB, when asked if Jalandoni would still be held accountable for the cases filed against him since he had already resigned.

Jalandoni quit on Friday, saying he wanted to "spare" the agency from any more trouble stemming from the three complaints filed against him before the Office of the President.

Lourdes A.L. Sarabia; 84

LOURDES Almeda Lopez Sarabia died on April 9 at the age of 84.

She was a director of La Francesian de la Infancia Inmaculada, Gota de Leche, which provides milk and counselling to poor mothers and children. She was also administrator of the Manila Children's Lying-in Hospital.

She was married to Manuel G. Sarabia, with whom she had seven children—Jose Roberto and wife Priscilla, Anna Leah, Maria Nella, Pierre and husband Jorge Sarmiento, Olga, Cora and Laurel, and Antonio and Irene. Her grandchildren are Carlo, Rina, Alang, Jan, Dino, Yolanda, Norman, Mercedes, Franco, Mika, Julian, Marella, Sofia and Lourella.

Her body will lie at Arlington on Araneta Avenue, Quezon City, until April 12 when her remains will be cremated in the morning.

DOJ won't let BIR handle tax cases

By Jerome Aning

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice (DOJ) is objecting to several bills filed in the House of Representatives that seek to give lawyers of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) the authority to investigate, handle and prosecute tax-related cases.

In a position paper submitted to the House committee on ways and means chaired by Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevella Maraviena, Justice Secretary Leila de Lima said that the move to fall within the jurisdiction and competence of the DOJ's National Prosecution Service (NPS).

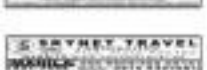
De Lima refuted the claims of proponents of House Bill Nos. 294, 1710, 2691, 2698 and 3133 that successful cases referred by the BIR to the DOJ resulted to become a "crowding ground for corruption" due to the alleged connivance between unscrupulous prosecutors and delinquent taxpayers.

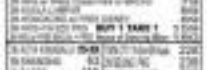
The proposed bills also seek to amend Republic Act No. 8424 or the Tax Reform Act of 1997 to give the Department of Finance (DOF) the authority to conduct preliminary investigations of tax cases.

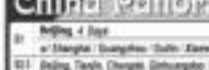
De Lima defended the DOJ prosecutors, saying that in most cases in the past, the BIR had hastily filed complaints before the DOJ without providing strong evidence to strengthen their cases.

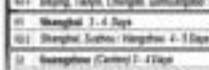
DOJ prosecutors, she said, ended up being forced to give parties more time to submit needed documents, thus delaying the resolution of cases.

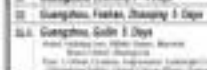
"In cases, cases had to be dismissed for lack or (sic) insistency of evidence. Obviously, what the BIR lawyers need is to hone their knowledge and expertise in building up cases that can stand scrutiny by the courts," De Lima said.

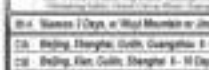


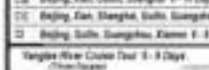


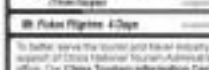


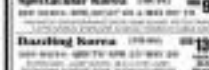


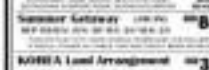


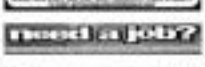












Workers bewail lack of opportunity

By Kristine Felice Mangaoay

AN ALLIANCE of workers has blamed the rising number of poor and hungry people in the country on the lack of job opportunities and wage increases.

In a statement, Defend Job Philippines—composed of workers from different private companies such as Pepsi Cola Philippines and Advan Shoes, among others...said the results of the latest Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey only showed that "millions of people" were still unemployed and "barely subsist" as a result of the recent spate of oil price hikes and basic commodity price increases.

"The new survey is clear basis that the Filipino people are even more impoverished ..." the group said.

The SWS survey conducted on March 4-7 showed that 20.5 percent, or an estimated 4.1 million families, experienced hunger involuntarily sometime in the past three months. This was more than the estimated 3.4 million families, or 16.1 percent, recorded in November last year.

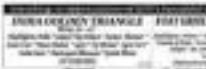
The survey also showed an increase in the number of families that considered themselves poor, from 49 percent in November to 52 percent today, or an estimated 10.4 million families.

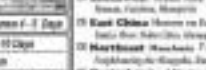
The group also said that even those who are employed are still "not properly compensated" since their are contractuals or casual paid with "very low wages."

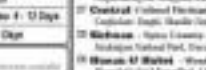
It also said that these workers are "not protected" by law since they have "no right to join unions," adding that the current minimum wage of P404 in Metro Manila was way below the P962 family living wage.

"To alleviate hunger and poverty, a meaningful wage increase should be implemented as soon as possible and the government should provide adequate, decent and permanent jobs by supporting and developing our local industries and enterprises," the group said.

The group also urged the government to put to place oil price controls to prevent a steep rise in the prices of basic commodities.







Bishop bats for higher pay for workers

By Jocelyn R. Uy

A CATHOLIC bishop is supporting calls for a wage increase as salary earners would cope with the skyrocketing prices.

Manila Auxiliary Bishop Broderick Pabillo said President Aquino must allow workers to receive a "decent" salary increase to cushion the impact of rising prices of oil, transportation and basic goods.

"The price of almost everything is increasing, so how can our workers cope? Those capitalists cannot let our workers starve," Pabillo, also chair of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines National Secretariat for Social Action, told reporters in an interview on Friday.

Last week, Labor Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz said workers should either get a wage increase or a raise in their cost-of-living allowance (COLA) as a result of the recent price hikes brought about by the crisis in the Middle East.

Baldoz noted that the purchasing power in Metro Manila had been eroded by 57.48 while the inflation rate in easter regions had breached the government's target of 5 percent for 2011.

On Thursday, Mr. Aquino said he had asked his economic managers to study how to mitigate the impact of the high prices on workers.

Among the measures being eyed are the suspension of price controls, the evaluation in the value-added tax and a wage increase.

Pabillo said that President Aquino's decision on the issue would reveal whether he is on the side of the laborers or the capitalists.

He also reminded the President of his promise—in his inaugural speech—to alleviate the plight of the poor.

"I hope he remains true to his promise—that he will provide solutions to the problems facing the poor and the ordinary workers," said Pabillo.

Pabillo also criticized President Aquino's decision to give final authority for public transport routing that it was "short-sighted."

He said the government might not have enough funds to sustain the subsidy which would cost taxpayers P600 million. With a report from Philip E. Tubeza

Kids learn about courage from books

By Kate Pedroso
Inquirer Research

READING has different walks of life—a teen, a policeman and three beauty queens—and aimed to take on courage in its quest for underprivileged children at a special literacy fund-raising held on Saturday at Welcome Home in Pasay, Manila.

Welcome Home ambassador and Good Shepherd Sister Mar Verona kicked off the session with a retelling of the classic folktale, "David and Goliath," about a boy who defies a giant warrior by using his strength.

Verona told the story with props, a storyboard, sound and tape recorder, which she used to illustrate Goliath's height—to the delight of the audience of public school students from Pasay and Pasadena.

Keeping Miss Philippines Earth 2010 Baylon Grace led the kids in a song and dance routine for the entertainment to loosen things up.

Miss Philippines Earth candidates Dianne Querrer, Maribel Ordoñez and Tarhata Alih Sharifden also read Sister Villanueva's "Hanan ng Sapay," about the Pyramis loyalty to their leader, Reyna Ulupay, and how their determination, strength and loyalty led to the birth of the first papaya. The story was published by Lampara.

Outstanding cop

They were followed by Senior Supt. Hernando Cariño, one of Metropolitan Police district's Gawad sa Kaunlaran Pulisyano sa Serbisyo (Cops) in 2008, who read Aileen Rosal's "Pito-tiktak Tagiyan," also by Sister Villanueva.

The story is about a dedicated cop, police who eventually reaped the fruits of his hard work and diligence.

Cariño was obviously no stranger to storytelling, reading his story in different voices and shifting tempo now and then.

"I'm used to reading to kids. I think it's good that kids have the opportunity to attend storytelling sessions like this," said Cariño, currently chief of the Community Relations Division of the National Capital Region Police Office.

Araw ng Kagitingan'

"I also think the story I read was very apt. Today, 'Araw ng Kagitingan,' is a good day to share a story about the courage of our country's policemen," he said, adding that the real heroes of the country were not only policemen, but mothers and fathers as well.

"I enjoyed reading the story to the children because they were very attentive," said Sister Pilar, who had some theater experience as a student at St. Paul College Manila.

"I think the most important thing is to share the moral of the story. Illustrators, use courage, fear of courage and heroism in your kids. Also, you must do first, or have weapons to be real. It's courageous. The story of David showed the kids that being humble and simple can also lead to heroism," she said.

Welcome Home, run by the Good Shepherd Sisters, is a center for abused and malnourished women. The children in residence were in the elementary grades who receive educational assistance from the center.

The kids instantly warmed up to the three Miss Philippines Earth candidates, who took turns reading "Hanan ng Papaya."

Inspiring experience

Kim said the experience was "inspiring. I saw that the kids were very eager to learn. I would love to do this again."

Querrer agreed. "I definitely look forward to repeating this experience. I love storytelling to kids...you can really see their eagerness to learn. I think it is also nice that the children are able to listen to stories about courage while they are still young. I hope these stories will leave a great impact on them when they get older."

For Ordoñez, the session was truly enjoyable. "I love kids and I really enjoyed interacting with them. I really think kids should be taught early on, so that they will learn a lot if they read a lot of books."

The Miss Philippines Earth pageant will be held in June.

Ten-year-old Russell Mago, who will enter the fifth grade at Juan Luchan Elementary School, said his favorite story was "Hanan ng Papaya."

"The story, the Pya, a sweet loyal to Reyna Ulupay, even if they had to suffer up their lives," he said, added who his favorite story teller was, for slyly pointed at Dian. "Ate Maribel is not only a good storyteller, she is pretty too."

Importance of following the law

Allish Jean Fernandez, 7, also liked the Miss Philippines Earth beauties. "They were all kind and beautiful," she said.

Rosalyn de la Cruz, 12, of Calvario Sid. under Elementary School, said she learned about courage from "Pamahan Ng Ipyas."

"I also learned the importance of following the law," she said, and her parents' rules.

Saturday's session, hosted by Increase 11. law office located Chino de la Vega, was in cooperation with Welcome Home, Miss Earth Foundation and Silverdrank Foundation.

Prizes courtesy of Vibal Publishing were awarded during the question and answer portions that followed each storytelling segment. The children also received books from Vibal and the Rotary Club of Makati.

Books Across the Seas program and gifts from Filipinas Shell.

POLICE Senior Supt. Hernando Cariño reads his story on courage to his co-readers (from left) Sister Mar Verona and Miss Philippines Earth candidates Maribel Ordoñez, Tarhata Alih Sharifden and Dianne Querrer are in attendance as the children, at the Increase Read-Along on Saturday.
RAUL ANTAO

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MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2011

Condoms one way PH can stop AIDS, says UN

By Joey S. Sarmiento

THE PHILIPPINES needs to "translate into action" its Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of reversing the spread of Human Immunodeficiency Virus Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) by 2015, a United Nations coordinator said.

Without "re-energized action" such as promoting condoms, the country faces some 18,000 new HIV infections a year, warned Bernita Marie Ragasa, country coordinator of the United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

This would entail treatment costs of about P800 million a year or more than triple the current Department of Health budget for HIV/AIDS, she said.

To stem the spread of the fast sexually transmitted disease and cover its intervention, all commitments in this regard, the Philippines would need to ensure the political will to promote the use of condoms, and provide safe and voluntary services to the population.

Among the Philippines' MDGs is the reduction of the spread of the HIV virus by 0.5 percent. Aside from its sexual transmission, HIV can also be passed through blood transfusion and from mother to baby during labor.

On March 23, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon reported that "the world is beginning to reverse the spread of HIV and that investments in the response to HIV are 8. really paying off," noted Ragasa.

The UN leader declared that between 2001 and 2009, the number of new HIV infections in 33 countries – including 22 in sub-Saharan Africa – fell by at least 25 percent. By the end of 2010, some three million infected people in low- and middle-income countries would receive antiretroviral treatment.

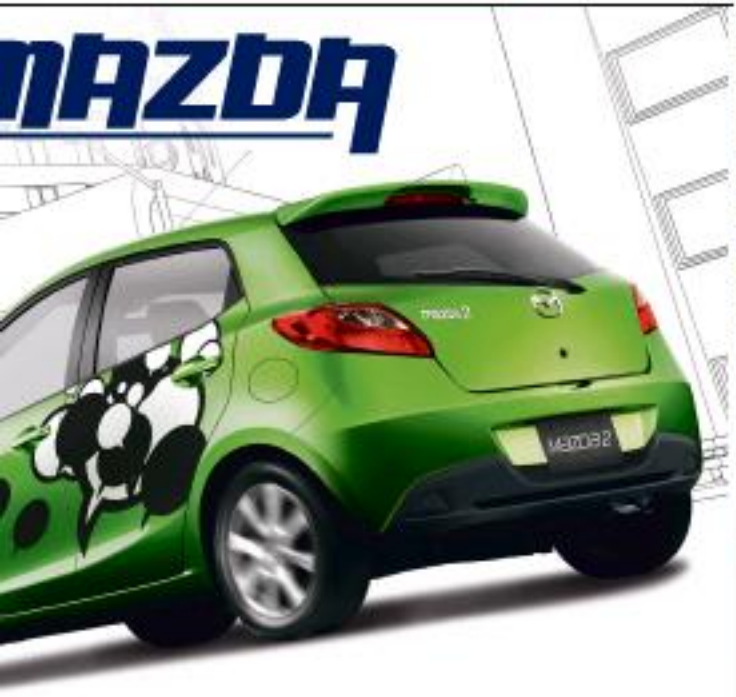
The Philippines is among one out of only seven nations in the world which ranked the most, reporting increases of over 25 percent in new HIV infections between 2001 and 2009.

The UN chief cited such national infrastructure, financing shortfalls and cherished, restrictive, religious and cultural populations as factors that continue to impede access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services.

Ragasa pointed out that the Philippine campaign against HIV/AIDS "has long been underfunded."

The country had obtained more than $31 million in grants from the Global Fund to boost its anti-AIDS campaign to halt the spread of the dreaded disease but this is still inadequate.

"Enabling policies and a clear stand of the government on some concerns, like the condom issue, that will have impact on the epidemic must be in place. Commodities must be able and universal access to them must be achieved," she said.



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THE DAILY GOSPEL

APRIL 11 (Monday)
Psalter-week 2
Weekday of 5th week of Lent
Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2, 4, 5, 6, 11, 12a, 13b
Jesus through a walk in the dark valley
Jesus was in the presence of his enemies
Gospel Reading: Jn 10:1-9, 11-18, 19-21, 22-30
Jesus, the Good Shepherd

Once Jesus' reputation as a man sensed enemies. Jesus was a very rich man and greatly respected by all the town, making him frequently visited, in his home adjoining a garden. One day old man began to feel his age as they wandered the garden together one day. Jesus has gone all the more into the enemies near the garden, with two minds, she decided to leave. "Leaving me all and forsaken, I shall go," she remarked. Jesus replied: "when the minds had left, the two of Jesus hurried to her and said, "look, the garden flowers are dead and no one sees us, we do not appreciate us. I will have to give in, we will really like you more you would more for those who young man love with me."

... Jesus was unconcerned in death. She cried aloud, "Jesus! Jesus!" nothing is hidden from you, would you let me die, though I am not guilty?" She said Jesus! his God answered the holy spirit resting in a young lad named Jesus! she shouted, "God! Jesus was put in the minds of this woman." Jesus' greatest lament to him, "what did you say?"

Gospel: Jn 10:1-9

... Jesus went to the mount of olives, at day-break he appeared in the temple again. All the people came to him, and he sat down and began to teach them. Then the teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. They made her stand in front of everyone. "teacher," they said, "this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. now the law of moses commands us to stone such women to death; but you, what do you say?"

... Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. and as they continued to ask him, he straightened up and said to them, "let anyone among you who has never sinned be the first to throw a stone at her."

... one result of these words, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders, and at last was left alone with the woman standing before him. Then Jesus stood up and said to her, "woman, where are they? was no one condemned you?" "no one, sir," she answered. Jesus said, "neither do I condemn you; go away and don't sin again."

Reflection:

Jesus is stopping in his book. "He spat locally of the inner circle" tells us a story about a monk who was invited to judge the sin of one of his brothers. He went to a second carrying a leaking jug filled with water. When the old monk asked him why he was carrying the jug, he answered, "my sins trail behind me and I do not see them, and today I am coming to judge the faults of another." The monk is filled with people who are eager to judge others. Jesus advises us clearly in the Gospel (Jn 8:15): "You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one." Here is our kingdom and judge, for we do not have the right to disrupt another person's peace by judging his conscience.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Not the last

EDITORIAL

LAST THURSDAY US Ambassador Harry Thomas turned over a check for $132,000 (about P5.7 million) to Justice Secretary Leila de Lima, representing the proceeds from the forfeiture and sale of a house in California owned by former military comptroller Jacinto Ligot and his wife Erlinda. It was, as almost all news reports about it pointed out, a historic first.

"I am pleased to announce the first ever return of funds to the asset forfeiture case, where the US government is returning $132,000 to the Philippine government," Thomas said. De Lima's response clarified the pioneering nature of the turnover, explaining that it was the first such return of illegally obtained funds under the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty between the Philippines and the United States.

At least three aspects of the turnover deserve closer study.

First, and as in the case of former agriculture undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-Joc" Bolante, the Philippines has benefited from a decisive action of the US government. While we welcome the US government's assistance, we are also aware that this signal legal victory throws a spotlight on the cowly complacement, not very successful anti-corruption drive in the Philippines.

In other words: The US assistance should prod, or even shame, Philippine institutions into doing better in the future.

Second, Assistant Ombudsman Jose de Jesus was quick to claim credit for his boss, the impeached Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez. "We are happy that the efforts of the Ombudsman, under the watch of Ombudsman Gutierrez, in having this check delivered to the Philippine government, have paid off." But we can guess the reason for their happiness. The check can earn serve as a positive umbrella against the fallout from Gutierrez's turpitudinable failure to file any corruption case against Ligot.

Last February, Sen. Franklin Drilon pressed as a Senate blue ribbon committee hearing that, despite incontrovertible evidence provided by the Anti-Money Laundering Council of Ligot's immense and presumed-to-be-ill-gotten wealth (because it was grossly disproportionate to his P30,000 monthly income), all the way back in 2008, Gutierrez failed to file any anti-graft case against Ligot. "It was referred to the Office of the Ombudsman three years ago," Drilon said then, referring to the testimony of an AMLC investigator that she had personally delivered the bank records to Gutierrez in May 2008. "The fact is, as we talk today, there is no graft case pending" against the fortune-blessed ex-comptroller.

In other words: nice try, Mr. De Jesus. But this particular forfeiture case in the US, begun in 2003, does not even begin to justify Gutierrez's astounding failure to throw the book at Ligot and company.

Third, the cooperation of the United States, where many of the ill-gotten proceeds of various corrupt officials to the last decade were ultimately invested, seems to us to signal renewed international confidence in the Philippine government's capacity to purge the rot of corruption. In fact, Thomas all but said that the Filipino public should expect more. "We know this is the first of several cases that we will be able to cooperate with the Filipino government."

As in any case, there comes that March/Aquino turning point where, once an army's resources have been committed, its generals realize that there is "no substitute for victory." In the context of the fight against corruption, the first of two principal planks on which President Aquino based his entire campaign platform, that point is reached when the public sees that the momentum in the fight is real. Is the recovery of the Ligot property in Buena Park, California, only one of several they own, part of a campaign that includes the filing of tax evasion charges against Rep. Mikey Arroyo, the filing of criminal and administrative charges against former congressman Prospero Pichay and four others for the "highly irregular and anomalous" rush initiative by the Local Water Utilities Administration in a Laguna thrift bank, not least the impeachment of Ombudsman Gutierrez? If it is, and if we can expect more such cases or legal milestones in the coming days, then the Aquino administration can rely for solid support on public opinion.

In other words: This is a first, but we certainly hope it isn't the last.

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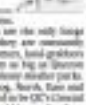

AS I SEE IT

Sassi M. Cruz

In a bill sponsored by the Filipino World Heritage Commission, stating that these are "irreplaceable evidences of the history of the Philippines," Senator Jinggoy Estrada and Senator Ramon Revilla Jr. filed Senate Bill No. 2965 on Jan. 24, 2011. The bill seeks to declare the Manila Metropolitan Theater, the Post Office Building, the Legarda Building, the Philippine Stock Exchange Building, the Philippine Heart Center, the Philippine Normal University, the Philippine General Hospital, the Philippine Columbian Association Building, the Philippine Women's University, the Philippine Social Science Center, the Philippine Orthopedic Center, the Philippine Children's Medical Center, the Philippine Navy Officers' Village, the Philippine Navy Officers' Club, the Philippine Navy Officers' Quarters, the Philippine Navy Officers' Mess, the Philippine Navy Officers' Barracks, the Philippine Navy Officers' Garage, the Philippine Navy Officers' Recreation Center, the Philippine Navy Officers' Swimming Pool, the Philippine Navy Officers' Tennis Court, the Philippine Navy Officers' Basketball Court, the Philippine Navy Officers' Volleyball Court, the Philippine Navy Officers' Football Field, the Philippine Navy Officers' Baseball Field, the 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Crisis Communication Plan, the Philippine Navy Officers' Public Relations Strategy, the Philippine Navy Officers' Media Relations Strategy, the Philippine Navy Officers' Social Media Strategy, the Philippine Navy Officers' Digital Marketing Strategy, the Philippine Navy Officers' Content Strategy, the Philippine Navy Officers' Search Engine Optimization Strategy, the Philippine Navy Officers' Pay-Per-Click Advertising Strategy, the Philippine Navy Officers' Display Advertising Strategy, the Philippine Navy Officers' Affiliate Marketing Strategy, the Philippine Navy Officers' Email Marketing Strategy, the Philippine Navy Officers' Mobile Marketing Strategy, the Philippine Navy Officers' Video Marketing Strategy, the Philippine Navy Officers' Podcasting Strategy, the Philippine Navy Officers' Webcasting Strategy, the Philippine Navy Officers' Blogging Strategy, the Philippine Navy Officers' Website

Islam and/in the West

WORLD VIEW

Ghazali Asbali Basaroglu

for cultural diversity.

According to the Pew Foundation Survey's September 2010 report on Religion in Public Life, Western Europe's Muslim population would more than 17 million. In countries like Sweden, Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Austria and Switzerland, Muslims comprise 5 percent or more of the population. They have to cope and encouraged to play their full role in both community and public life.

As the second largest religion in non-governmental organization, the Organization of the Islamic Conference is committed to cooperating with the international community to promote and consolidate global peace, mobility harmony, security and development. As I have stressed on many occasions, the OIC is guided by the principles of moderation and multiculturalism. The OIC's basic declaration, such as in Ten-Year Program of Action and its new Charter, provides a visionary road map to meet the challenges facing Islam in the twenty-first century.

Despite the obvious cooperation and confidence one another. Television, visibility and prejudice are associated only when communities and cultures communicate and respect one another. To speak out against Islamophobia is not to support the existence of hatred against other religions, and the Muslim must remind our basic cooperation to counter anti-Semitism, Christianophobia and misperceptions about Western culture.

We must not be hostages to our extremists. As the events over the last decade in the fighting terrorism and extremists, we fairly believe that our effort must be part of an overall endeavor aimed at building a better world. American national diversity, in which human dignity, human rights and fundamental freedom are properly respected.

When Barack Obama became President of the United States, he promised a new chapter in relations between the Islamic world and the West. In his first overseas visit as President, speaking in the Turkish Parliament, he said:

"The United States is not, and will never be, at war with Islam .... America's relationship with the Muslim community, the Muslim world, cannot, and will not, just be based on opposition to extremism. We seek broader engagement based on mutual interest and mutual respect. We will listen carefully we will bridge misunderstandings and we will seek common ground. We will be respectful even where we disagree. We will not only cite deep appreciation for the Islamic faith, which has done so much over the centuries to shape the world—including in my own country."

Although there have been many setbacks in the relationship between the two, we could provide a unique opportunity to forge a new discourse of tolerance and understanding between the principles of the Islamic world and the West. We may have to look to the Muslim communities within the West, to the Muslim diaspora, to provide dialogue and discourse for the future. More opportunities for broad and deep encounters between Muslims and non-Muslims must be developed and sustained, at both the individual and institutional levels. In light of the perception of a new dominance of political openness in Muslim majority countries, these encounters may be more possible than ever before.

Most importantly, concerned organizations and individuals must continue to challenge the stereotypes, and misinformation and misrepresentation to develop the culture of tolerance and respect needed to ensure the full engagement of our rights. This is the only way forward for the Islamic world and the West—and for Islam in the West.

Prospect Dymilla.com

Ihsanoglu: Basaroglu is secretary general of the Organization of the Islamic Conference

In bondage

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Nassefah Maulana

FINALLY, after long last, it is over. Hopefully, in this case, for black and white. This deep, dark secret that many Filipinos, known but nobody talks about, except in whispers.

Until Lawyer Jose Manuel, chair of the Commission on Human Rights, talked about it in one of the recently Inquirer. 4/2/11), hardly any government officials ever even mentioned human rights violations (*Alfabeta*), as though such abuses happened only in Metro Manila, where in fact those are more frequent, more violent and more cruel in the provinces, wherever the warlords reign, and evidently more so in ARMM.

Speaking in Cotabato City early this month, Reuters said that abuses by powerful political dynasties in the ARMM were "keeping the region's human rights record stained." The day did action that many of the cases of human rights abuses were "seldom reported."

I thought so. Because had even a few of those instances of violence, brutality, injustice, oppression, deprivation of the life and liberty of the powerless and their pursuit of a peaceful, decent life, been reported, there would have been hardly the adjective "dismal" distantly inadequate.

And even the statement of Brig. Gen. Ariel Bernardo, deputy commander of the Army's Eastern Mindanao Command, who was cited in the same story as saying that the military was not showing favoritism to any group or to deprive the government police of duties of their "warriors of power—guns and guns," would actually sound almost like a palliative against the inattention and complacency of that acreage of our times.

Because the fact is, though laudable, has come woefully too late. The powers derived from guns and guns has been so enormously for so long, and so encompassing that it has become a reflexive cause of mind, the mind that frustrates the consciousness of those looking on in passive resignation, even acceptance, that this is simply the order of things that they mean like by classified only that they are allowed to live at all.

It is not only about it is bondage—of the body, but more reprehensibly, of the mind and the spirit.

While it is easy enough to point to the Ampatuans and the Maguindanao massacre as an easy accusation and the consequences thereof, the devastating effect on the community where this order of things operates at its most primitive and debilitating, we also have to look at where these powerful political clans and warlords rule, such governor Mohsin is poverty and stagnation.

It is no coincidence that the country's poorest provinces are in the ARMM.

And the dominance of Maguindanao under the rule of the Ampatuans is the most obvious—although not the only—example of this deplorably depressing contradiction, as featured in GMA's "Wowowin" by "Boss Manoy" hosted by Mahal Bautista.

After showing footage of the most familiar pain memories of the Ampatuans rounding side by side with the hordes of their concubines, Mahal asked us through frame after frame of searing, bloodboiling images of dilapidated schools and classrooms in the province, of the lack of water and electricity, as newscasts say, how the pillage will affect over the future, specifically the future of the children of the province who have been deprived of their basic rights to education.

That is only a glimpse, just a single classroom, was built during the reign of the Ampatuans, taken from the documentary which was aired last Thursday the same week that reports of a staggering P1.6 billion misappropriation in ARMM funds, with P5 billion "misspent" during the incumbency of now deposed former ARMM governor Zaldy Ampatuan, surfaced to add injury to death.

That is what the "struggle" of the Moro fronts at Liberation Front had attempted to.

The history of Mindanao's festering wounds and wounded is the narrative of freedom and self-determination, paid for with the blood of tens of thousands of innocent lives, was betrayed as nothing better than the greed for power and money, not greater than you are in the land and the more people, the situation of Mindanao.

But Muslim should not be held entirely on clans like prophets and fake leaders because this would not from some to pass without the collusion and connivance of the Christian majority such as Datu Mangagad Arroyo, who made it possible for the Ampatuans to rise to the pinnacle of power and to rule with impunity.

No, it is not just a matter of depriving political clans of their "sources of power—guns and guns." It is a matter of depriving them of the source of their guns and guns, which is our taxes, which is our money the money that they need. From us to acquire their guns, without which they will have no guns.

And that, at this point, is a matter of depriving clans of the power to rule, which means not electing them into office, which is under and then done, which is why postponing the elections in the ARMM to us to begin instituting reforms in the electoral process in the region should be the most urgent call that the call of effort. Police reform.

One more electoral exercise to be long a time. It has been long enough.

No nation can claim to be truly free while a part of it is still in bondage.

Comments to nassefah@yahoo.com

Strange phenomenon: A response to Lacanilao

COMMENTARY

Ramon Guillermo

PH PISSH is chiefly certain issues raised in Dr. Fe Lacanilao's "Democratic governance: Important questions" (Inquirer, 10/14/2011). Lacanilao forcefully argued for using the number of publications by UP faculty members in ISI journals as the single most "objective" measure of disciplined competence and intellectual excellence in the university.

The Institute of Scientific Information (ISI), founded in 1960, publishes indices of what it calls the journals with the highest citation rates. From the very beginning, misgivings have been expressed about the ISI's privileging of English as the lingua franca of scholarship in all scholarly disciplines. (See W. Garfield, "Citation Indexes for Science," *Science*, July 1955.) It has also been observed that its emphasis on journal publication does not take into account the relatively higher importance of book publications in the social sciences and humanities. Furthermore, journals in the English language from the USA and UK dominate the lists while other important languages of scientific research are not adequately represented. Despite these observations, it could be accepted that in some fields, such as the natural and medical sciences, significant weight could be given to publication in such journals. However, there are, there, good would probably retain it a uniform weight for ISI publications were to be imposed indiscriminately on all the disciplines. Such an imposition would ignore the differences and limitations endemic any considerations of the science, needs and internal dynamics of the disciplines in question. It would be best if the weights or to given to publications in ISI journals were arrived at consensually by the practitioners themselves in the relevant disciplines.

In the meantime, the general thing seems to of skepticism against the simple measure of ISI publications serves us in a sobering way. The progress scientific research organizations in Europe, the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Foundation), issued new guidelines last year which emphasized that the most important factor in evaluating applicants for grants is the individual quality of their research work and not the number of their ISI publications. The American Association of Scholars (AAHE) has also recently issued guidelines cautioning against the abuse of such measures and has rejected the notion that the quality or impact of the articles could be directly inferred from the journal in which it is published. "Though publication in specific journals may reflect a certain minimal assessment of "quality," the question of whether these are actually of "superior" quality is misleading rife. For example, the Russian mathematician Grigori Perelman's work in publishing proof of Poincaré's conjecture in 2006 in the open source, non-refereed website arXiv. The most brilliant measure of determining the quality of scholarly work elsewhere remains the old-fashioned practice of reading the work of the candidate themselves to take a soft approach in considering the significance of ISI journal publications in relation to considerable issues, production, turnover and hiring. The weight given to a single very strong publication in a top journal in the sciences, for example, should always be a substantive mechanism in place. A cautious and critical attitude toward the ISI measures elsewhere has a solid basis and is not coincidental to "coddling mediocrity" or "incompetence," as Lacanilao seems to believe. Neither is it a mere defense of the "old ways" of doing things or an embrace of "blind nationalism."

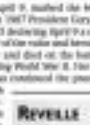
Lacanilao also proposes that a report to make the number of ISI publications the supremely decisive factor in the "ranking" of UP faculty members. He also could have imagine a database being kept in which the number of ISI publications of each faculty member would be recorded. Leaders at all levels of University administration could then be automatically driven periodically from among the most highly published individuals. Lacanilao then adds that this leadership would achieve better results by energetically excluding the "losers" or "parasites" among the members of the academe from any consultative process and by investing an opposition from them. But how is this to be achieved practically? What changes have to be done to the UP Faculty Manual and to the UP Charter to accomplish this end? What would bring about the absolute hegemony of the ISI paradigm and the willing self-subordination of the majority of UP academicians to the ISI elite? How will these "subalterns" attend to directing the majority of their colleagues to the ISI paradigm?

The UP has always prided itself for academic freedom, by the traditions of critical dissent and for possessing a culture in which strongly divergent views are given privilege and honored by the community, are generally frowned upon. Many governments of UP academics have worked hard to discourage the University from its cultivated spirit by advocating and developing forms of democratic governance. Moreover, the UP's important research and extension can be drawn to functions more immediately related to the ideals of human equality and the birth of basic democracy. What could distinguish a plain this strange phenomenon in which some scholars are encouraged to abandon the very basis of the University's—and the country's—two- of democratic governance? From whence comes the incomprehensible belief in elevating what is ultimately a rough and simple tool of research and to the ISI Index to the status of being the final arbiter of the life of the mind?

Ramon Guillermo is associate professor at the Department of Filipino and Philippine Literature, University of the Philippines Diliman. He received the Palanca Hall of Fame Award and studied at the University of Hamburg, Germany. Email: rguillermo@up.edu.ph

Mariveles Massacre

LAST SATURDAY, April 9, marked the 69th anniversary of the fall of Bataan. In 1987 President Cory Aquino issued Executive Order No. 203 declaring April 9 a regular holiday on memorable anniversary of the valor and heroism of the men and women who fought and died on the battlefields of Bataan and Corregidor during World War II. Her son, President Benigno Aquino III, has continued the practice of commemorating the events with a wreath-laying ceremony at the Dambana ng Kagitingan in Pilar, Bataan, accompanied by the US and Japanese ambassadors.



REVELLE

Ramon J. Farolan

Much has been said and written about the gallant stand of the defenders of Bataan and Corregidor. But it does not diminish the fact that April 9 was a day of surrender and defeat. The fall of Bataan was the single greatest military debacle suffered by the United States and involved the surrender of the largest American military force in US history to a non-white and hostile power considered as a national holiday in the United States.

* * *

April 1942 was a desperate month for Filipino-American forces in Bataan. In March, Gen. Douglas MacArthur left Corregidor for Australia. May Gen. Jonathan Wainwright assumed command of US Army forces in the Philippines (US-AFFE) while May, Gen. Edward King Jr. took over as Bataan commander.

The plight of the Bataan men and their senses of abandonment were best captured by the following chant said to have been composed by an American serviceman:

"We're the battling bastards of Bataan,
No mama, no papa, no Uncle Sam,
No ammo, no rocks, no aspirin, no vitamins,
No pills, no planes, no artillery pieces,
And nobody gives a damn."

Shortly after 9 o'clock on the morning of April 9, 1942 General King, against the orders of Generals MacArthur and Wainwright, met with representatives of Gen. Masaharu Homma, commander of the Japanese 14th Army in Bataan. The terms of surrender were that Yamashita refused to appear, believing that King was merely a representative of Wainwright. It was Col. Motoo Nakayama, a senior operations officer of Homma, who faced King and his party.

In his book "Clean Soldiers," Dominique Enbo describes the surrender scene:

"From the east Nakayama was proudly outlined above the tanned wiry legs relationship to Wainwright and just what it was that King was offering to surrender." As far as the Japanese were concerned, Bataan and Corregidor were one and the same, and instead of the presence of Wainwright. When King brought up the Geneva Convention and expressed concern about the safety of his men, he was brusquely told that Nakayama saying, "The treaty for Japanese army are not honorable."

At the end King realized he had no choice but unconditional surrender. Instead of a sword, he raised his .45 caliber pistol upon the table.

Bataan had fallen.

* * *

The Japanese had anticipated capturing 40,000 men, instead they had 75,000 prisoners, with Filipinos numbering some 64,000 along with 11,500 Americans. Earlier plans had been made to evacuate the noncombatants from the beaches. Those plans involved marooning them on Sisi/Sri Islands, Panaguan, from different points in Bataan and there, using motorized launches, transfer them to Cagayan, Tarlac, known beside Camp O'Donnell, the designated prison-torture camp.

Of the 75,500 prisoners, approximately 66,000 reached Camp O'Donnell. The rest died en route from disease, starvation and outright executions.

The first march began in January 1942 and continued until the fall of Bataan. But there is a little known incident—the one that took place two days after the surrender. Every Filipino should be aware of this episode even more than the Death March.

On April 11, 1942, Filipino troops of the 91st Philippine Army Division under Brig. Gen. Jonah Wainwright, were separated from their American officers and ordered to the Dinalupan/Orion area/Balanga.

In his book "Bataan: The March of Death," Stanley Falk, a historian with the office, chief of Military History Department of the Army, described what took place:

"In almost scene, a Japanese officer identified as Lt. General Mori, Mori, Mori, commanding, arrived by automobile ... There in no record of what Mori said during a quick conference with his officers but no matter had he left, when all Filipino officers and non-commissioned officers in the group, about 350 to 400 men, were lined up along the road. The Filipino prisoners were ordered to move on but the rest of the captives were formed into three groups and their status and security was the responsibility of the Japanese.

"So the unfortunate men stood with their backs to their captors, a Japanese civilian interpreter began to address them in Tagalog, saying 'My friends, don't take it so hard. You are surrendered soldier, you would not have me this regards. We are doing the humane treaty of our soldiers that fighting against us.'

"It a gentle signal, the execution began. Japanese officers moved down the line mercilessly beheading the Filipinos with their swords. From the other end the Japanese enlisted men methodically plunged their bayonets into the backs of the prisoners. For two hours, the grisly slaughter continued with the Japanese pausing to wipe away the perspiration and then resuming to chop down the next victim."

When the slaughter was over, only half a dozen prisoners remained alive, buried beneath their slain comrades.

"The massacre of the Filipino officers and non-coms of the 91st Division was apparently the only mass execution to take place on Bataan." Whoever was responsible for the slaughter, it was ruthless deeds the worst single atrocity of the war.

* * *

After the conflict, Gen. Tomoyuki Yamashita, commander of all Japanese forces in the Philippines, Gen. Masaharu Homma, whose troops were responsible for the Death March and Gen. Gen Shizuka, commander of the POW camps in the Philippines, were tried by a US Military Commission in Manila, and executed.

Lt. Gen. Akira Isaac, 66th Brigade commander, was never charged, if he is still alive, efforts must be made to bring him to justice just as Nazi war criminals continue to be prosecuted by governments.

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Willie's cross

LETTERS

[illegible] Willie or "Mga Munting Himala" [illegible] Anne Curtis and the [illegible] with small children and young [illegible] dare someone even showing no sign of tolerance, unlike master and [illegible] who complain about their nonessential stops.

Willie Revillame is that [illegible] talk show host forever urges that to only wants to entertain, that he wants to give joy to the poor and that he only wants to help. In the case of Jan-jan, however, he has committed a grievous moral wrong: he violated the poor child's basic humanity.

In a statement, the child's parents have expressed [illegible] disappointment of the kind of abuse [illegible] their child, even pointing out that Jan-jan was simply acting. Jan-jan is a child. Children are not supposed to suffer for the ignorance and irresponsibility of their parents.

We added [illegible] that we are not sure if any of the leaders we choose. We have options in terms of the person we vote or won't. But a child does not have an option in terms of who becomes his or her parents. In this regard, being considered as [illegible] there is a moral responsibility on [illegible] responsibility. There is only one moral option for a parent—love, cherish and protect.

Jan-jan cannot change the biological fact of his existence. But we have a government precisely because it is [illegible] that no one is above the law. Where there is abusiveness, [illegible] are meant to change that law. Thus, if we have enough bright men and women in government, the only solution is to find a way to [illegible] and live this child from hell.

A lot has been written about Revillame. As a teacher and a public official, if children ask me who this person is, I will simply say nothing about him: garbage.

—RYAN MANUEL
ryanmanuel@gmail.com

Look again: Jan-jan shows no trauma signs

"I'll WRITE" of the inquirer's April 3 editorial ("Lesson from Willie") obviously did not watch the March 12 episode of "Willing Willie," and relied solely on the "news" [illegible] reports. Let me [illegible] tell you that I am a regular viewer of "Willing Willie." I can attest that the last thing he wants is to hurt or abuse anyone. In fact, you would find his compassion for the poor and his [illegible]. He has given scholarships to not a few [illegible] who have stopped schooling due to financial problems, and he has even given a break to someone who [illegible] be genuinely appreciated.

Like the lawyers, I believe Jan-jan was not a victim of child abuse, nor can he [illegible] be considered lewd. Jan-jan heard 3,000 adults who understood [illegible] the dance to appear in the show, and he was crying while he danced. He [illegible] was forced to do something against his will, but because he was afraid of a very tall basketball player who he thought was angry.

Let's stop the Willie bashing and show him to help the needy and the disadvantaged people. Although his TV program, hosting the likes of the middle-of people who watch his TV programs daily as part of the audience, they are genuinely happy to see Willie. The editorial writer obviously does not like Willie, plain and simple, and refuses to believe that he is well-loved by many people.

—EUGENE LEONCIO, JR.
jal.eleoncio1989@gmail.com

Name-name in Senate

I READ Jam Morales's April 3 column about Filipino names. Then I realized what a jolly place our Senate would be if Pong (Bayani) rejoin Ping (Lacson), and Nip, Asha (Bagatsing) makes it the [illegible] day, as well as Lito (Atienza), perhaps in another term.

And how would we like Rina (Jimenez), as well as Teo (Sison), Bong (Revilla) and Bongbong (Marcos). Then we will have a [illegible] with a Tito, a Ichu, a Jose and a Pedro, along with a Ping and a Pong, as well as a Bong and a Bongbong. Chin-up lahat.

—ROBIN TORRES,
Cebu City

LTO's 'sandwich' plates

ON DEC. 28, 2010, I purchased a brand-new vehicle. Part of the deal was a free three-year registration. Because of [illegible], I requested for license plates ending in "1" or "2." Up to now, more than three months after the purchase, I have yet to received the license plates. My dealer tells me that according to the Land Transportation Office [illegible] there are no available plates. The plates with "1" and "2" endings are "sandwiched" numbers—e.g., "101" or "202"—and no one of those plates. I have to pay P1,000 "rush." What is the legitimate for this "extra" charge?

If LTO officials are consistently doing their jobs, instead of assigning their own money-making schemes, they should have a sufficient inventory of license plates in any given time, so that every newly registered vehicle should get its own within a few days. That they do not have such inventory should prompt them to compromise at least, and all leads to recent reports.

Preferring the delay is deliberate on the part of certain LTO officials, based on opposite their limited [illegible] car owners who are paying their salaries. It is not as if we are not already paying substantial sums (road user's tax, added costs, comp fee) to register our vehicles.

The appropriate government agency should investigate and put an immediate end to such unlawful activities. And for said privileged those involved in the LTO.

—EMANUEL I. ORTEGA,
Manuel.Ortega@aic.com

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Newsboy delivers papers–in style

From page A1

stores of his growing list of customers in black coat and tie to deliver the crisp copy of their favorite newspaper to the amusement of his clients.

His eye-catching getup has earned him the tag "Manileng sampal" from annoyed his customers along Mañalac Highway town.

"We like his business ether. There is no lowly job for persons like him. He is the only 'dominating soyot' around," a store owner says after receiving from Antonio her papa's copy for the day.

Antonio acknowledges that the polo and tie were part of his "gimmick and strategy" when he decided to venture into newspaper selling four years ago after he quit serving as a security guard for years in different business establishments in Southern Tagalog.

"I want to be unique from the rest of local newspaper vendors so that the public would notice me and buy my product," Antonio tells the reporter in an interview in the two-story house owned by his late mother in barangay Ipet on the outskirts of the city.

He narrates that there were times when customers in expensive cars would stop on the side of the road just to buy newspapers from him.

"They said they were attracted to my suit. They were asked me about myself and why I was wearing a necktie. They were all curious. Some might have thought that I was nuts, but I didn't mind as long as they buy a newspaper," he says with a good laugh.

Mostly professionals

Antonio says that after getting acquainted with his regular customers who are mostly professionals, including lawyers, doctors, bankers and bar hens, he began to realize that newspaper vending is good like any other profession that one should be proud of.

"My customers would tell me every day to a copy of their favorite newspaper. They treat me as an important partner in their daily routine so they can keep abreast of the latest events not only in the country but also in different parts of the globe through the news, opinions, business trends, modern technology and all the gamut of relevant information," he says.

With his getup, he says he believes that he is "able to put respect and dignity to newspaper vending no matter how lowly it is in the eyes of other people."

Antonio, who finished high school, recalls that when he stopped working as a security guard, a job that caused his separation from his wife and two children due to his frequent out-of-town postings, he took at a look on how to fend himself.

"My wife had long left me, bringing along my two kids. I'm now alone. I know that I have to find work. But at my age and with my poor health, who would still hire me?" he recalls quivering himself.

One of his friends advised him to sell newspapers but he felt unsure if he was up to it when he was told that it was going to be a laborious daily job.

"My friend was right. All other jobs have their own end-day. But in the newspaper business, the public is always hungry for news even days a week even if there's a typhoon or an earthquake," Antonio says.

There was no turning back when he made up his mind. He looked for a cheap bicycle in the city's secondhand shops and bought one for P700.

"With my age, I knew that I would be competing with much younger and faster vendors. I had to prepare myself for the competition," he recalls, noting that he was suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis when he started in the job.

Antonio combed the town of sleep-at-our coast clothing clubs in the central part of the city for colorful but cheap neckties. "As a starter, I bought three colorful ties for P90 each, a pair of rugged pants, a pair of all-around shoes and tatters's tuned glasses," he recalls.

Inquisitive stares

On his first day, he remembers how he was met with inquisitive stares from fellow newspaper vendors with his business attire. "But I just ignored them a week and a week. But I did not tell them that the getup was part of my marketing tactic," he says.

Even with a meager earning of only P50 on his first biting day on the job, Antonio says he was determined to continue his newfound trade.

"I never entertained the thought of giving up. Pumping pedal for hours amid the scorching heat is really backbreaking. But I have to persevere. A person should not wallow in pity but instead strive hard to earn respect from others even in poverty," he says.

Antonio starts his day at around 5:30 a.m., getting newspaper copies from one of the city's dealers.

"Early wonders at, he peddles in the as crediting portion of the highway, distributing copies to clients in several subdivisions, government proprietorships offices, factories and such-and-stores along the route. He still delivers copies of latter bunch to customers who want to read it in the afternoon.

On rainy days, Antonio still pedals his way around, protected by a plastic con-

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Don't dumb down viewers, TV urged

From page A1

has resumed, among others, the Philippine production of the provocative "Vagina Monologues," a play about women empowerment (or its loss) as told through stories relating to female sexual experiences or the genitalia itself.

Why not quiz shows?

As a statement, flagging Representative Rep. Bernadette Herrera-Dy flicked in a few jabs of her own.

Dy said top ad executives should sponsor more quiz shows rather than song-and-dance programs that lure in millions of viewers each hefty cash prizes.

Dy said the child abuse controversy could have been avoided had the boy performer, Jun-Jun, been made to compete in a show based on intelligence rather than "mere dancing."

"I believe Jun-Jun and his parents would have been grateful to have the 6-year-old minor train and join an academic quiz contest had there been one airing on television," Dy said.

MTRCB inquiry

A YouTube clip of the March 12 show has earned Revillame and his network a lashing from nonviolent viewers, government officials, Church leaders and even fellow entertainers.

The outrage has also revived calls for a drastic version of the local TV fare, especially game shows which critics say offer no educational or positive values, at worst promoting mendicancy and exploiting the poor and vulnerable.

The Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) has launched an inquiry to determine possible sanctions. TVS itself said it had appointed an internal ombudsman to investigate the incident.

Revillame has apologized and said he only wanted to help the poor but threatened to no follow-show his personalities who had attacked the show.

He has also said that the "Willing Willie" will be off the air for two weeks, starting today.

Senseless categories

One of the roots of the problem, Wilson said, was that "all-out TV network's dumb-down audiences in one way or the other."

"I am not saying, of course, that all shows fall beneath our standards of human decency. There are some TV shows that go against the grain, break the boundaries and give us quality. But they are so few," she said.

Wilson expressed dismay at "how the networks create the demarcation lines—A and B for middle and upper classes, C and D for lower classes."

"Where's the kind of senseless segregation in that?" she asked. "It's like saying that depending on what 'class' you belong to, you cannot 'appreciate' certain kinds of shows. This is

REVILLAME

WILSON

"It is lamentable that there is a dearth of corporate sponsors whenever talented Filipino students join international quiz competitions," she said.

Dy also said: "Advertisers of 'Willing Willie' demonstrated concern for the welfare of children when they audibly withdrew advertising support for the program. Can they be as quick to pick our challenge before them to back the revival of academic competition programs on TV?"

The advertisers who pulled out their ads from the show were Jollibee Foods Corp., which said it was "holding off" ad placements of its newly acquired Mang Inasal restaurant chain; Procter & Gamble Philippines; Unilever Philippines; Del Monte Pacific Ltd.; CDO Foodsphere; and Columbia Ultrafine Furnishings.

Leonard de Vera, a lawyer for Revillame, claimed the videos of the show uploaded on YouTube and Facebook were "spliced to an attempt to portray child abuse and to shed a bad light" on Revillame and his show.

Earlier, De Vera called for the suspension of the MTRCB inquiry "to cover all TV programs with children and minors, whether as performers or guinea-pigs or contestants."

De Vera argued that the videos were edited to make it appear that Jun-Jun cried throughout his performance, as if he was forced to perform and that Revillame humiliated the boy.

Viewing the entire segment would "easily dispel" that notion, he claimed.

"There was also nothing abusive in Jun-Jun's performance because the dance type that Jun-Jun rendered was part of a dance form called 'bardy sayaw.' Jun-Jun's dance was not suggestive and did not evoke lustful thoughts. In fact, the said dance had become part of Filipino culture. In many Filipino homes, children dance this way during family gatherings to entertain their parents and relatives," De Vera contended.

He added that there was also "nothing wrong" with Revillame's commentary during Jun-Jun's performance, saying it was Revillame's "intrinsic way" of hosting. With reports from Jeff C. Cabacungan Jr. and Jerome Aning

7,000 defy Taal Volcano warning

From page A1

and Seismology (Phivolcs) declaring the area a danger zone.

Phivolcs yesterday said it had recorded six volcanic earthquakes in Taal in the past 24 hours, a decrease from the 21 counted the previous day.

At the same time, the water around the volcano, a major tourist attraction in Batangas, has become "slightly less acidic," with the pH value at 2.84 from 2.82 on March 29. A higher reading of pH value means less gas is being expelled.

The agency said earthquakes and carbon dioxide emissions could increase in the next several days, raising the water temperature in the area was slightly to 30.5 degrees Celsius from 30 degrees the past day. These indicate a possible "magmatic eruption," it said.

Phivolcs said the main crater, Daang Kastila Trail and Mt. Tabaro, site of a 1965 eruption, were accessible to all hikers, warning that "sudden hazardous steam-driven explosions may occur and high concentrations of toxic gases may accumulate."

"Breathing air with high concentration of gases can be lethal to human, animals and even cause damage to vegetation," the agency said.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council said the entire volcano island was a "permanent danger zone" and should not be settled.

Taal is one of the most unstable of the country's 22 known active volcanoes with 33 recorded eruptions, the last one in 1977. The 536-sq.-km surrounding the crater prevented deaths in 1977 and during other eruptions, protecting outlying areas from lava flows.

Senior Supt. Alberto Ingcapo, Batangas provincial director, yesterday said 75 families had been herded to Talisay and housed at Veranico Trinidad Senior Memorial School. Another 114 families stayed with their relatives.

Jing Sojimenardo, provincial information officer, said the evacuees are from Laurel, Talisay, Tibag and San Isidro on Taal Volcano Island. Reports from Krizia U. Alave in Manila, Marvyn Leuden, Inquirer Southern Luzon, and AFP

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Japan set to stop dumping of toxic water into the sea

TOKYO—Japan hopes to stop pumping radioactive water into the Pacific Ocean on Sunday, which should help ease international concerns over the spread of radiation from the nuclear accident in 25 years.

But problems in containing and cooling reactors at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, which was crippled by a tsunami last month, mean more contaminated water may eventually be pumped into the sea if the complex runs out of storage capacity.

Japan's firms facing a major labor shortage

Japan is struggling to regain control of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant after a massive earthquake and tsunami devastated its northeast region on March 11.

"There are still assessments of methods and there is no room for complacency regarding the measures (at Fukushima Daiichi)," said Japan's Deputy Cabinet Secretary Tetsuro Fukuyama.

The plant operator, Tokyo Electric Power Co. (Tepco), said it was continuing to inject nitrogen into reactors to prevent another hydrogen explosion that would spread highly radioactive material into the air.

No clear progress

About 60,000 tons of radioactive water are hindering efforts by emergency crews to regain control of the reactors but no date for the 10-reactor complex, which caused partial meltdowns to some reactor cores after their fuel rods overheated.

Japan's Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency said efforts to restore cooling systems were not making clear progress.

"We may be able to use (electric) systems that are currently functioning for cooling, and that may speed up the cooling restoration. But there is no success so far," said Hidehiko Nishiyama, a deputy director general at the agency.

"It is one step forward, one step backward," Nishiyama added.

An unmanned drone built copter is scheduled to fly over four reactors to video damage and gauge radiation in areas where workers are unable to safely enter.

Remote-controlled trucks also will be used to remove some of the radioactive rubble.

Public anger

Japanese voting in local elections on Sunday are expected to vast Democrats over Prime Minister Naoto Kan's handling of the nuclear crisis, further weakening him and bolstering opposition who will try to force the resignation once the crisis ends.

The unpopular Kan was already under pressure to step down before the worst disaster to hit Japan since World War II, but analysts say he is unlikely to be dumped during the nuclear crisis, which is set to drag on for months.

In Tokyo, around 5,000 people took to the streets to voice opposition to nuclear projects on Sunday.

Some protesters carried placards reading "No More Fukushimas" and "No Nukes." Others danced and played musical instruments. One group of demonstrators marched to Tepco's offices.

So sorry

On Saturday, Tepco expressed apologies for the crisis.

"I would like to apologize from my heart over the worries and troubles we are causing for society due to the release of radiological materials into the atmosphere and seawater," Sakae Muto, a Tepco vice president, told a news conference.

Radiation from the Fukushima plant has spread around the entire northern hemisphere in the first few weeks of the nuclear crisis, prompting to the International Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization.

China and South Korea have also criticized Japan's handling of the nuclear crisis. Seoul has called Tokyo inconsistent, inconsiderate following growing international unease over the disaster and the spread of radiation.

Economic crisis

Japan's economy, the world's third largest, is reeling from the triple disaster and several countries have banned or restricted food imports after detecting radiation.

Many criticized the nuclear crisis and power shortages have disrupted Japan's manufacturing and stockbroker global supply chains, hitting consumer and auto makers in particular.

Factory blackouts and restrictions, factory shutdowns, and a sharp drop in society have hit the world's most indebted nation, which is facing a damages bill as high at $300 billion—the world's biggest for any natural disaster.

Cherry blossoms

The government had called for restraint from the public to help the recovery effort.

But families and friends were out in force at cherry blossom viewing parties, traditional events that herald spring, although some were toning down the usual alcohol-induced revelry in deference to the disaster victims.

"It's quieter than usual. There are lots of people but they're a bit subdued," said one Tokyo office worker, who was strolling beneath the delicate pink blossoms.

"The blossoms are in full bloom for us and we should appreciate them," she said. Reuters

Radioactivity at Fukushima nuclear complex to last decades

From page A9

be severed.

"Of course, decommissioning the four reactors would be more challenging than retiring one from an ordinary operation. We still have a lot to consider," he said. He declined to give details on the timeframe and cost estimates, citing business confidentiality.

'Disaster may never end'

Erecting a quick resolution to the nuclear crisis would give a boost to a nation trying to recover from the severe disasters and to the tens of thousands forced to evacuate communities near the plant and already wearying of living in shelters with no prospects of returning home.

"It would take decades. We will all have to move away," said 39-year-old Hitomi Matsuzaki, who left a home on the fringe of the evacuation zone and is living in a gymnasium in Fukushima city.

Unlike the more modern refugees who stay online to rebuild communities, "it's different for us, because this disaster may never end," Matsuzaki said.

Combination of farms

Decommissioning usually takes three times dismantling or demonstrating parts of the reactors so the land can be used, safely sealing off and vacuuming the nuclear plant while the radiation inside decays, and removing radioactive parts in containers and steel.

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Best solution

"The best solution is to encase the six (or 46, 50, 60 years)," said Arnold Gundersen, who was once part of the US Department of Energy's nuclear weapons planning and runs the US-based environmental consulting company Fairewinds Associates.

A fairewinds study cited cost estimates for decommissioning Fukushima Daiichi's nuclear plant, whose boiling water reactors are similar to Fukushima's but have fewer problems, that use as high as $600 million last year and would likely exceed $1 billion next year.

Gundersen said the risk for the Japanese plant may end up being many times that amount.

Hidehiko Nishiyama, chief spokesperson for Japan's Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency, has said ideally the Fukushima complex would be encased in concrete, but that is "the last," meaning the facility is dismantled and removed.

Though an avid user of tools at power with 34 plants, Japan has little experience in decommissioning and none involving problematic reactors.

The first, Tokai Power Station Reactor No. 1, is 13 years into a 22-year process. Its fuel rods have been removed, and its turbines and other equipment are being dismantled while the reactor is buried, its ends and sides closed.

More drawn-out

Decommissioning troubled reactors tends to be more drawn-out. Parts of Ukraine are still unlivable nearly 25 years after the Chernobyl nuclear plant's Reactor No. 4 exploded, while neighboring Belarus began allowing some people to move into its no-go zone last year.

The four colored cooling towers and crowded dome of the Tokyo Wide Island nuclear plant's Reactor No. 2 will loom over central Pennsylvania 32 years after its cooling system malfunctioned, causing a partial meltdown and sending up plumes of radioactive gas.

Its final decommission date is two decades away at a cost estimated over $650 million.

"It's like a funeral where the pallbearers have to stand around for decades," said Eric Epstein, who runs the monitoring group TMI Alert.

Central Pennsylvania was long known for plain living Amish farmers, the Hershey Co. chocolate factory and the Civil War battlefield of Gettysburg, but the region is now stigmatized in the public mind by the worst nuclear accident in the United States.

More challenging

Unlike Three Mile Island and Chernobyl where problems were confined to one reactor each, Fukushima has three nuclear reactors that are not cooling properly and at least one of which may be leaking.

The Japanese complex also has four storage pools for spent fuel which have overheated, some to dangerous levels.

"This is going to be inevitably a much more challenging decommissioning than Three Mile Island or Chernobyl combined," said Peter Bradford, a former commissioner on the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Radioactive exposure

Employees in the first five days of the crisis at Fukushima showered debris over the site and highly radioactive water has inundated corridors, tunnels and ducts not normally exposed to radiation.

Plutonium, which lingers for thousands of years, exposure has been found on site and other highly radioactive elements like cobalt are likely there.

Cesium-137, another long lingering element linked to cancer, has been detected 25 to 60 kilometers away from the plant in amounts the scientific journal Nature said "could result in significant increases in thyroid cancer."

The northeast Japanese prefecture of Fukushima, which is home to the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant, has been evacuated and is off limits to all but a few residents.

Some 80,000 people have been evacuated from the area around the plant, and 136,000 people have been told to stay indoors.

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Some 80,000 people have been evacuated from the area around the plant, and 136,000 people have been told to stay indoors.

Woman, 7-year-old son start origami project

By Rina T Bellera
Contributor

MY 7 YEARS OLD son, Gabby, and I started this project of creating 1,000 origami cranes on March 16. Gabby has always loved origami but, after the earthquake and tsunami in Japan, I taught him about the peace crane and its significance in Japanese culture.

Upon completing our first crane, he insisted on making a wish and asked me to put it on Facebook to let others know that we still needed to make 999 more.

I started a blog, got both my kids involved (including 14-year-old Erica), and asked friends (old friends from 27 Oldman, neighbors in Pasig, and office mates at GMA New Media) to get their kids involved.

Empathy

I just thought the current disaster in Japan was an opportunity to teach children not just about disaster preparedness but also empathy and what it means to be a citizen of the world.

I was actually pleasantly surprised that most of the kids already knew about the peace crane. One girl from our neighborhood even knew about the story of Sadako Sasaki.

Our initial plan was to make this a mini-arts project and then eventually turn over the cranes to the cultural office of the Japanese embassy. However, upon learning about the arrival of the Peace Boat from an article that came out in this business, we have decided to step up our efforts as are now collecting 1,000 cranes per child.

We hope to be able to complete the cranes by next week and so we can grab the opportunity to route these cranes to the Peace Boat.

Hopefully, the Peace Boat crew will be able to bring the peace cranes to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Cenotaph (together with additional cranes that will be individually brought), as part of our contribution to the prayer for world peace and as a sign of goodwill for the children of Japan.

Metro kids offer peace cranes

From page A9

tsunami that struck Japan on March 11.

The ironclad tokoyos visited four locations in Fukushima and distributed food packs, rice, canned goods, bottled water, blankets and other relief items.

The PBS launched the relief drive on April 4 in partnership with Kidzlifestyle for International Dialogue (IED) and Peace Boat, a Japan-based international organization that sends out peace parties, human rights and sustainable development.

The Peace Boat, a cruise ship with a capacity of 2,000 passengers, will dock on April 13 in Manila, its last port of call before leaving for Japan. It will carry relief goods for distribution in Japan.

The new drives to the Japanese relief drive are Mr and Mrs Andres Constantino, Judy Tan, Quintin Uy and Ramon Tuason.

Ann Huang, Shirmine Dimaya, Violeta Dizon, Joshua Cordero, Claire de Leo Asa, Ms. Shirley Feliw, Sr. Cecil Agoncillo of St. Mary's Academy Pampanga, and a resident of Cubao, Quezon City, who asked not to be named, donated toiletries, jackets and trousers.

Kikuwa Philippine Inc. and Lima Tech. subsidiary Center donated bottled water.

'Time to help'

Dizon, a retired IT professional and resident of BF Homes in Paranaque, said she was moved by what she had seen on TV about the situation of the earthquake and tsunami victims.

"I saw that they need clothing, especially thick ones. I pity them. I have jackets and trousers that my husband bought but did not use. It's time for me to help," said Dizon, a widow and longtime Kidzlifestyle client.

The list of things that the PBS, IED and Peace Boat are collecting for the earthquake and tsunami victims include wall chippers, toilets, cotton buds, hand cream, cleanser, toothbrushes, toothpaste, face wash, body towels, wet tissues, hand sanitizers, underwear (especially for women), socks, men's trousers, diapers (child and adult) and feminine hygiene products.

Donations may be sent to the PBS editorial offices at 1490 Chino Roces Ave. corner Yague and Manuela streets in Makati City.

Cash donations, inquiries

For peso cash donations, one can deposit the amount at Checking Account No. 958-3-33000899-2 of Initiatives for International Dialogue with Metropolitan Bank, Makati Ave. Highway, Makati, Davao City.

For inquiries about the relief campaign, please call Connie Rodriguez, Kidzlifestyle corporate affairs manager, or Bianca Rueda at Tel. No. 8999420.

The process is accepting donations until April 12.

The news firm that sent bottled water were responding to the calls of Mon Gen. Antonio Ordoñez III and Gen Vilma Santos-de Rodriguez to extend help to disaster victims in Japan.

He urged donors in the province to call his executive assistant, Marlando Mandigan at (043) 723-5668. With a report from Jerome Aning

Assistant Editor Tony Benjamin

Across the NATION

After blast, 2 planted bombs defused

LAMITAN, Basilan—Army troops defused a powerful bomb outside a school Sunday in Basilan, where the night before a blast destroyed a lodging house and another explosive was found near a hotel in attacks blamed on Abu Sayyaf extremists.

An army ordnance team safely defused the bomb, believed to be made from ammonium nitrate and attached to two cellular phones, after patrolling soldiers discovered the explosive in a biscuit can in front of a school compound in Lamitan town, and provincial military commander Lt. Alex Macatta.

Soldiers cordoned off the area as a soldier, taking cover behind a tree, cut the wires protruding from the explosive with a long Yakaban jade Bolo with metal knobs, according to witnesses.

The military tightened security in Lamitan after a bomb exploded in a lodging house late Saturday destroying the small wood and concrete building but causing no injuries, Macatta said.

Two men checked in then left before the blast at the lodging house, often used by nonmuslim rubber plantation workers. The owner apparently resisted an extortion attempt by an armed group before the attack, regional police commander Felicisimo Elio A. said.

Shortly after the blast, troops found another bomb, which was packed with nails for added lethal power, near a budget hotel in Isabela's capital city of Isabela, officials said.

The Army received reports that the Abu Sayyaf has planned to bomb a unidentified, small hotels and gas stations in Basilan, about 880 kilometers south of Manila, Macatta said.

In Zamboanga City, Senior Supt. Alex Leyrazo said no one was hurt in the explosion that ripped through the Spanky Lodging House in Barangay Mampang.

Leyrazo said police in the blast, two men checked in at the lodging house. He said witnesses described the suspects as in their 20s.

"They were seen carrying a green plastic bag when they checked out from the place. A few minutes after, there was an explosion," he said.

Three hours later, another bomb was found in Isabela City.

Lt. Col. Randolph Cabangbang, spokesperson of the military's Western Mindanao Command, said a patrol unit of the 18th Special Forces Co. found the bomb along 20 Alano Street in Isabela City at around 9:30 p.m.

"The IED was inside a plastider bag containing a dull 3pst fuse with a cellular phone and wiring attached on the steel unit," Cabangbang said.

The police's Special Action Force detonated the explosive.

Cabangbang said there was no clear indication on who were responsible for planting the bombs. AP, Julie S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

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1 dead, 5 hurt as plane crashes in Camp John Hay

BAGUIO CITY—At least one person was killed while five others were hurt when a commuter plane crashed into a forested area in Camp John Hay here on Sunday afternoon.

Reports from the Office of Civil Defense in the Cordillera said the plane crashed near the horseback riding area inside Camp John Hay at about 3 p.m., a few minutes after it took off from the Loakan Airport.

The plane, a Piper Aztec that carried PPC 52-60, body number PA32, was on its way to Pinabel, Dolores, when it crashed, reports said.

Lt. Gen. Gaudencio Pangilinan, commander of the military's Northern Luzon Command based in Tarlac City said the plane was carrying the group's Col. Reynaldo Iscrita, who is also a pilot.

Lt. Col. Miguel Okol, public information officer of the Philippine Air Force, said Gen. Pangilinan and reports he received identified the dead as Miss Anna Aragon, Acarpan export from the Baguio police, however, identified the lone fatality as one Jose George.

Pangilinan said Iscrita and four others were taken by rescue teams to the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center.

Among the first people in the crash site who helped the victims were "pony boys," the men who rent out horses to tourists in Camp John Hay.

They said the plane hit pine trees before it burst into flames and burned a patch of trees in the crash site, which sits a few meters from a row of restaurants and a picnic ground in Camp John Hay. Fernil Cimeneo, *TV Espectro and Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon, and Rosella Ocejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

Policemen secure a forested patch inside Camp John Hay where a six-seat plane crashed on Sunday afternoon.

ria, who was among those injured, is not in active service and belongs to the military's reserve force.

Chinoy trader released in Maguindanao

COTABATO CITY—Filipino Chinese trader Jinky Yap was freed by her captors in Maguindanao on Sunday dawn.

Cotabato City administrator Cynthia Dulam Anyuli said Yap, 38, was handed over by the kidnappers to a city government community in a remote village in Datu Piang, Maguindanao at around 2 a.m.

Yap, who was attending to her wine grocery store when she was kidnapped, was reunited with her family about 4 a.m.

Anyuli acknowledged the participation of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in negotiating for the victim's release.

Samsam, in a form of board and lodging, but how paid but authorities could have received the amount.

Anyuli said the family had directly negotiated with the kidnappers who earlier demanded a P15-million ransom but later lowered it to P500,000.

At about 6:50 p.m. on April 1, Yap was manning her SLT General Merchandise Store along Sinsuat Avenue when four men dragged her from the counter and forced her into a waiting van and sped toward Sultan Kudarat. Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao.

Another kidnap victim, Ecleglo Ada Yu, owner of Ta Kim Chai Hardware, remains in captivity.

Supt. Sonny Reyes, city police director, said intelligence operations will continue to identify the suspects and the filing of appropriate charges against them.

Following Yap's release, Reyes has appealed to businessmen in the city to take extra measures to avoid getting kidnapped.

Edwin Fernandez and Charlie C. Senase, Inquirer Mindanao

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Group warns vs hydropower plant privatization

ILIGAN CITY—The 31-member Association of Mindanao Rural Electric Cooperatives (Amrecos) on Thursday warned of its opposing against government moves to privatize the state-run Agus and Pulangui hydroelectric power plants, saying it would compromise the peace and security in the areas.

Last month, Amrecos passed a position paper during its meeting in Cagayan de Oro City, which said that the government's move "will endanger and exacerbate hostility to the hydro plants by the people in the communities adjacent to Lake Lanao, where the Agus dams it water service, and Pulangui flows in Bukidnon."

The Maranao halk of Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte had been claiming their share from revenues generated by the Agus hydropower plants while the land of Bukidnon wanted the government to compensate them for the use of the Pulangui River.

Both hydropower systems were being run by the National Power Corp.

The government has not acted on the demands to date.

In recent months, armed men toppled steel pylons used for transmission lines although both the police and the military claimed the acts of sabotage as unfulfilled extortion demands.

"Such situation will magnify the problems on security and peace and order in Mindanao," Amrecos said in its resolution.

Chit Ybanez Pacana, Amrecos executive director, told the Inquirer on Thursday the group's position had not changed.

In fact, he said, Amrecos continued its campaign against the privatization efforts.

He said Amrecos wanted the government to reflect on their position now as the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management (Psalm) starts moves to privatize the two hydro facilities, which provide the bulk of Mindanao's power requirements.

Pacana said aside from its projected impact on peace and security, the move would also make ordinary consumers suffer because rates would surely shoot up.

Currently, the government's power production cost from the operation of the two hydropower plants was pegged at less than P1 per kilowatt.

That would change, Pacana said, when private groups take over.

"If sold, the new owners will recover their investments by imposing increase on rates, and in a fashion more disadvantageous to end-consumers especially on that the generation source is deregulated," the Amrecos statement read.

Pacana said increased rates would also result in "the concomitant deterioration of the economic competitiveness of Mindanao commercial and industrial firms that are energy-intensive." —Rachel Ong, Inquirer Mindanao

Spare no one in Boracay land probe, DENR urged

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

KALIBO, CITY—Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño has called on the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to spare no one in the investigation on alleged irregularities in the titling of land on Boracay Island.

He also called on the DENR to expand its investigation on the titling of properties in other tourist destinations.

"Heads must roll and the investigation should go as high and as wide as possible in the event those are behind the anomaly and who gained from it," Casiño told the Inquirer in a telephone interview on Sunday.

The DENR is conducting an investigation on irregularities involving 16 personnel in the issuance of 251 homestead patents covering 9.7 hectares to 211 land title applicants on the 1,032-hectare island resort.

The titles, which were registered with provincial registry of deeds, were issued between Nov. 16, 2000, and Dec. 8, 2010.

Most titles were believed to be invalid because the properties were misdeclared as agricultural instead of commercial or residential.

Casiño said the DENR should not stop in investigating those directly involved in the issuance of the questionable titles.

'Cause for concern'

Bayan Muna had just passed a resolution, seeking to investigate the plight of the 36 tribe in Boracay who were in danger of being ousted out from the island despite being among its original inhabitants.

Casiño said the alleged land title irregularities was a "cause for concern" in the Boracay community who were issued a Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples.

"The Ati tribe could not still transfer to their land despite a certificate of land grabbers and with congressional intervention. But titles are apparently getting titles under the table," he said.

He said the DENR should also look into other destinations where properties are also being titled because the alleged irregularities on Boracay could set a precedent.

Property claimants and businessmen owners on Boracay who have been fighting to have their properties titled, also urged the DENR to resolve the controversy immediately.

"We hope that will be corrected," said Rodolfo Cano, president of the Boracay Foundation.

Spate of deaths in GenSan jail alarms relatives

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Relatives of inmates are baffled by the spate of deaths involving prisoners at the Gensan Rehabilitation Center here.

Four inmates have died in a span of 10 days. All of them were declared dead on arrival at the hospital.

What is more alarming, the real cause of their deaths could not yet be determined.

Nonoilo Mangelen, one of the suspects in the bloody 2004 General Santos public market bombing, died of unknown disease on Thursday.

Nerolito, 41, was already dead when his family arrived at the General Santos City Hospital on Thursday morning. The cause of his death was still being determined.

His older brother Ramon told reporters here that they were never informed by the management of the city jail that Nerolito was suffering from any ailment.

Ramon said it was hard to believe he died so quickly. "As far as we know, he had no ailment," Ramon said.

Unknown illness

The Mangelen family brought on Friday afternoon the remains of Nerolito to their hometown in S.E. Pendatun, Maguindanao.

Nerolito was the fourth inmate to die in span of 10 days.

An inmate died on March 28, then followed by another one on April 1. Two others died successively on April 6 and 7.

Princess Alett, whose husband Jerwin Pasa was suffering from a strange illness, was likewise worried.

She claimed that the jail management refused to allow her to bring her husband to the hospital.

"The jail management should investigate this case," she pleaded. "If he deserves to die, I hope that if sick, the inmates should be treated and not be neglected until they die," she said.

The day before Nerolito died, an inmate identified as Normel Pagod, 40, died of an unknown illness.

Bernadette Gil, warden/legal officer of the city integrated health services office here, hinted that during her autopsy there was no trace that Pagod was physically abused.

Need for court order

Gil could not say the exact cause of Pagod's death.

"The question then is: are there subsequent deaths of inmates?" Gil asked.

The problem, Gil said, is that inmates are not immediately rushed to the hospital because jail officials still wait for a court order.

"They should negotiate with the court that when it comes to life and death situations, an ailing inmate must immediately be brought to the hospital," Gil said.

In an interview with a local television reporter, Supt. Ansari Bendito, jail warden, claimed that Brenden Hinampas had been suffering from tuberculosis and hepatitis. Bendito, however, said that this could probably be the cause of his sudden death.

The jail warden said they would not just bring to the hospital a prisoner, especially someone considered as high risk, without a court order.

He clarified that jail management is not negligent of their duty to take care of the inmates, but there's always a need to do this to help minimize during emergencies such as calling for medical supplies. —Agatha Z. Pamela, Inquirer Mindanao

Onion farmers upbeat over good harvest

By Armand Galang
Inquirer Central Luzon

STUDENTS in onion-inspired costumes join Bongabon's Sibuyasan Festival in celebration of a good harvest of the town's primary cash crop. ARMAND GALANG

BONGABON, Nueva Ecija—With the red onion priced at P36 to P40 a kilo, farmers these days are upbeat as they hail the celebration of the nine-day Sibuyasan Festival that started here on April 2.

Onion, the town's major product, was the main feature of the activities, particularly during the farmers' day and sweet dancing competition on Thursday and Friday, respectively.

Mayor Amelia Castillo said farmers were in high spirits as they joined the festivity that was aimed at uplifting their morale following five years of heavy losses.

"Now you can see that everybody is happy," she said. "It is a fitting tribute to our farmers who serve as engine of our development."

Castillo said at least 1,500 hectares of farm land here are planted with onions, including the yellow granex variety.

During the festival, students wearing onion-inspired outfits presented variations before officials of the Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the town government. Some farmers joined onion-eating contests at the town plaza while DA employees urged residents to prepare onion-based dishes.

Brigida Pili, DTI provincial director, said onion has been identified as the town's one town-one product (OTOP) and a multiagency effort is being exerted to make the industry viable.

"We are negotiating with the market, including well-known fast food chains (so they would patronize our produce)," she said.

Dante de Lima, outgoing director of the DA's high value crop development division, said the country has produced enough supply of the red onion variety.

But he said farmers are having a hard time to meet production targets for the yellow granex variety, which has a shorter shelf life.

He said the country runs short of yellow granex from November to January.

"We have decided not to allow an import permit for red onion (because) our farmers need work. And to produce the requirement for yellow onion," De Lima told Inquirer.

He handed a P13.4-million check to fund drying facilities, to local officials and cooperatives of onion farmers here.

Boracay named 2nd top beach destination

By Nestor P Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

KALIBO, CITY—Boracay Island was named the second top beach destination in the world for 2011 by travel website TripAdvisor.

Boracay came in second only to Providenciales Island among 10 top beaches named in the 2011 Traveller's Choice Beach-es Awards. Providenciales is located in the Turks and Caicos group of islands, a territory in the North Atlantic Ocean.

The only 4.5 miles long, Boracay is small enough to navigate by rented bicycle or motorbike. But don't try to stand one foot you—you'll have several enthusiast beaches to choose from. Its pali (beach is known for beautiful white shells, White Beach has picture-perfect scenery, and Bulabog-Puka Beach is a secluded spot, perfect for honeymooners," according to TripAdvisor.

"As long as you visit during dry season, you'll agree this is one of the best beach destination in the world," read the write-up on Boracay Island posted on the TripAdvisor's website (http://www.tripadvisor.com/TCBeaches).

The winners were chosen from the most highly rated beach destinations based on millions of reviews and opinions from travelers around the world, according to TripAdvisor in a statement dated April 5.

"It's that time of year when travelers are dreaming of getaways to warm beach destinations. To provide inspiration as we refuse to go, we've named some amazing hot spots around the world, based on millions of real and unbiased reviews and opinions from TripAdvisor travelers," said Barbara Messing, chief marketing officer for TripAdvisor, in the statement.

"In addition to the outstanding beaches, these destinations also feature top-rated options for hotels, vacation rentals, restaurants, and restaurants," Messing said.

The Travelers' Choice Beaches Award-winning World Beach Destinations include: 1. Providenciales, Turks and Caicos; 2. Boracay, Philippines; 3. Palm Beach, Aruba; 4. Negril, Jamaica; 5. Tulum, Mexico; 6. Alya Beach, South Carolina; 7. Seven Mile Beach, Grand Cayman; 8. Punta Cana, Dominican Republic; 9. Cape May, New Jersey; and 10. Jumby Bay, Costa Rica.

Tourist arrivals have consistently grown over the years reaching 779,000 last year, up by 28 percent compared to 608,018 in 2009.

Boracay tourists accounted for the bulk of the tourists reaching 474,697 followed by foreign tourists with 238,431 and overseas Filipinos with 27,826.

Tourist earnings have also grown from P13,941,302,920 in 2009 to P34,052,911,044 last year.

Catanduanes seeks ways to lure tourists to its 'majestic waves'

By Diana M. Barrameda
Inquirer Southern Luzon

VIRAC, Catanduanes—After experiencing a decline in tourist arrivals during the past year, the local government of this island province now wants to learn from neighbor Camarines Sur how it succeeded in luring in tourists.

Catanduanes Gov. Joseph Cua said he and his staff have been drawing back and forth into Camarines Sur to observe and ask advice from Gov. Luis Raymund "Lray" Villafuerte on how to promote his island to foreign and local tourists.

Cua said he was also looking into the possibility of building a partnership with Camarines Sur to entice visitors from Caticlan—gateway to the tourist spots of Boracay—after having a fill of the famous sites on the mainland.

A survey recently released by the Department of Tourism (DOT) showed that in 2010, Catanduanes was among the provinces that experienced a decrease in tourist arrivals, alongside Camarines Norte and Marinduque, owing to some negative factors, particularly their unstable peace and order situations during the election period.

Catanduanes has continued with Negre City, on the other hand, received nearly 1,070,192 tourists in 2010 or roughly 73 percent of the total 1,480,838 tourist arrivals in the Bicol Region.

According to an estimate made by the Catanduanes provincial's office, the island received only 40 foreign tourists during the first few months of 2011 due to the cold and unpredictable weather from January to March.

Cua said it was disheartening that only a few people got to visit Catanduanes and see its pristine beaches.

"We are in constant communication with Governor Lray," Cua said. "I believe he and his team can enlighten or on the methods that will be applicable for Catanduanes. Our island has so much to offer. Our environment is practically untouched and clean. We have so much virgin forests and big clear rivers that Camsur does not have," Cua said.

Although Catanduanes is now famous for its majestic waves in the Baras area, which has recently been hailed as a surfer's paradise in Bicol like Cavinitan in Camarines Sur, there are still untapped and underdeveloped tourism potentials in the island.

Although Catanduanes is now famous for its majestic waves in the Baras area, there are still untapped and underdeveloped tourism potentials in the island

He said they were discussing the possibility of constructing the San Miguel River, the largest fresh water stream on the island, into a wakeboarding zone much like the Camarines Sur Watersports Complex (CWC).

"I believe if this will come true, we will have a haven for boarding complex here because the river is a natural creation. It is not man-made," Cua added.

Cua said the main objective of the tourism efforts in Catanduanes is not to create manmade spots but to enhance and preserve its natural resources.

He admitted that one of the biggest stumbling blocks to the tourism effort for Catanduanes is the lack of transportation facilities going to and out of the island.

Cua, however, said this problem would soon be solved with the adding up of other flights of Pal, Cebu Pacific and Zest-Air port on the island connecting the port in Caticlan-Cuyo to the port of Subgay in Camarines Sur, which shortened the travel time between the two provinces to one hour and 45 minutes from the present four hours.

On April 3, Cua led the inauguration of the Caladbon port, the second for the island, the other one being in the capital town of Virac.

Catanduanes is known for its natural tourist spots such as the Lapinig and Virgen caves in Viga, Nabugbugan Falls in Gigmoto and Salinog Falls in San Miguel, as well as pristine beaches like those in Twin Rocks, famous for its white sand shore instead of stone, and the Puraran Resort in Baras, which is often visited by Australian and other foreign surfers.

The island is also known as the abaca producing capital of the Philippines.

BALLET STUDENTS (left) practice at the grounds of Philippine High School for the Arts. At right, Candice Adea, now the principal dancer of Ballet Philippines, credits her dancing success on the work ethic she developed at the mountain school. Angel Navarro and

World-class artists bred in this school

From page A1

onto dating her distant husband's 20-year title.

Guarded by 2 deities

Marcos chose the slopes of 1,090-meter Mount Makiling as the site, which was named after the enchanting daughter of two deities who protected nature in local folklore.

It was, however, only in 1969 that then President Ferdinand Marcos signed an executive order establishing it as an official public high school for gifted children, a third-world replica of New York's famous Juilliard.

The students at Makiling are now carefully chosen from thousands of applicants who audition for just over 50 slots a year.

The rewards of acceptance can be huge—past graduates have become famous musicians or artists or gone on to study abroad.

The 140 students get free board and lodging, the school applauds a special focus on mastery but whatever discipline each of them wants to pursue.

Rich culture

So deep is the government's commitment to the school that despite the nation's endless being nearly bare, it spends an average of P300,000 a year on each student.

This is about 30 times the amount allocated for students at a regular public school.

While the Makiling students are afforded every chance at success, the school's only hope is that they will pursue a career in the arts to preserve and champion the Philippines' rich culture.

"There is no real contract between us and the scholars for them to repay us in kind," said Calmag, 53.

Real world

Teachers also tried to prepare the students for the real world, however, noting that a career in the arts could be financially frustrating at times—one reason some opted to go in another direction once reaching university.

"There is no clear distinct career after this experience," Calmag said, but he assured those who were originally passionate about their chosen craft often enjoyed success after graduating.

Among the standouts is Candice Adea, 24, named by her peers last year to win the silver medal at the USA Ballet International Competition, considered the Olympics of dance, and she credits his success in the work ethic she developed at the mountain school.

Pursuing the dream

Adea said she was sent abroad twice to compete when she was a student at Makiling, valuable training that helped hone her technique and helped her realize that dance was what she wanted to pursue in life.

"They gave me the opportunity to see the real world of ballet. From that opportunity, I realized what I wanted to do with my career," Adea said during breaks in practice at Manila's Cultural Center of the Philippines.

"These experiences for me minds. We got to go to different places and perform. Experiences that you would never have in other schools."

'Time to give back'

Fifteen-year-old Suzy Bellen is just embarking on what she hopes will be a similar journey.

Bellen left behind her parents and three siblings in the southern Philippines, which has been ravaged by a deadly insurgency for decades, to begin her dream of one day travelling the world as a performing artist.

"Dance is my life. There is nothing else for me," Bellen said, adding that she hoped to one day show the world the beauty of ethnic folk dance fused with contemporary music.

Anne Mireille Guzman, who graduated this year, has launched her first children's book in Manila and proceeds of the sales will go to funding an arts workshop for public school children.

"I believe the mastery of the written word is a gift I can share to everyone," the 17-year-old said. "We spend best years of our lives here. It is time to give back." AFP

STUDENT Henrietta Pagtalunan exhibits her paintings at the country's premier public school for the arts.

Rain or Shine forges KO battle vs Ginebra

By Jun Nasol

KERBAN ILUSIADE fired six three-pointers and finished with 20 points as Rain Or Shine ousted Barangay Ginebra, 113-97, to send their PBA Commissioner's Cup quarterfinals tie a deciding third game.

The Elasto Painters, who won for the first time against the six Kings this season, led by as many as 28 points and weathered a strong third quarter by a Ginebra squad cheered on by a boisterous Cuneta Astrodome crowd.

"We were able to live by another day," said Rain Or Shine coach Yeng Guiao. "I think what really won this game for us was our ability to contain their guards."

Ginebra and Rain or Shine play their knockout match for a semifinal slot on Wednesday the same day Alaska and Air21 also play their deciding game. (See first game story on Page A10).

The winner between Ginebra and Rain or Shine faces Smart Gilas in the semifinals while Talk 'N Text awaits the winner of the Alaska-Air21 quarterfinal pairing.

Doug Kramer scored seven points midway in the fourth, but three-point play off Rudy Hatfield pushing the Elasto Painters back in total control, 910-82, after the Kings mounted a last ditch rally and cut the deficit to seven points at six point.

Larry Rodriguez had 17 points while Gabe Norwood and Ryan Arana hooked down three free throws each for the Elasto Painters, who converted 35 times out of 53 attempts and toured 38 assists against Ginebra's 17.

Torrance eyes four pros

In another development, Smart Gilas coach Siaffa Torrance is looking at the 27's Dondon Hontiveros, Talk 'N Text's Kelly Williams and Jimmy Mapag and Slivadon's Art Tolentino as the PBA players who could beef up the national team.

Torrance's preference, however, is still subject to the approval of the PBA board of governors.

The national team is gearing up for the Fiba Asia Championship in Wuhan, China, on Sept. 15 to 25, where the champions secure the last continental seat to the 2012 London Olympics.

Smart Gilas, which is campaigning in the Commissioner's Cup in lieu of Ranidel Ildefonso, which is looking to sell its franchise, will no longer join the Fiba invitational tournament.

Box scores:

Ginebra
Hontiveros
Barroca
Slaughter 4-8 1-2 9, Ildefonso 3-8 0-0 6, Cortez 2-5 0-0 4, Mallari 2-3 0-0 4, Ayaay 1-2 0-0 2, Ahanmisi 0-0 0-0 0, Cruz 0-0 0-0 0, Tiongson 0-0 0-0 0, Ibanes 0-0 0-0 0, Ayaay 1-2 0-0 2, Ahanmisi 0-0 0-0 0, Cruz 0-0 0-0 0, Tiongson 0-0 0-0 0, Ibanes 0-0 0-0 0, Totals 39-91 16-22 97.

Rain or Shine
Norwood 5-7 0-0 11, Arana 5-7 0-0 11, Rodriguez 7-11 2-2 17, Ilusiade 6-9 2-2 20, Kramer 5-8 0-0 10, Hatfield 3-5 0-0 6, Belga 1-2 0-0 2, Ahanmisi 0-0 0-0 0, Cruz 0-0 0-0 0, Tiongson 0-0 0-0 0, Ibanes 0-0 0-0 0, Totals 35-53 4-4 97.

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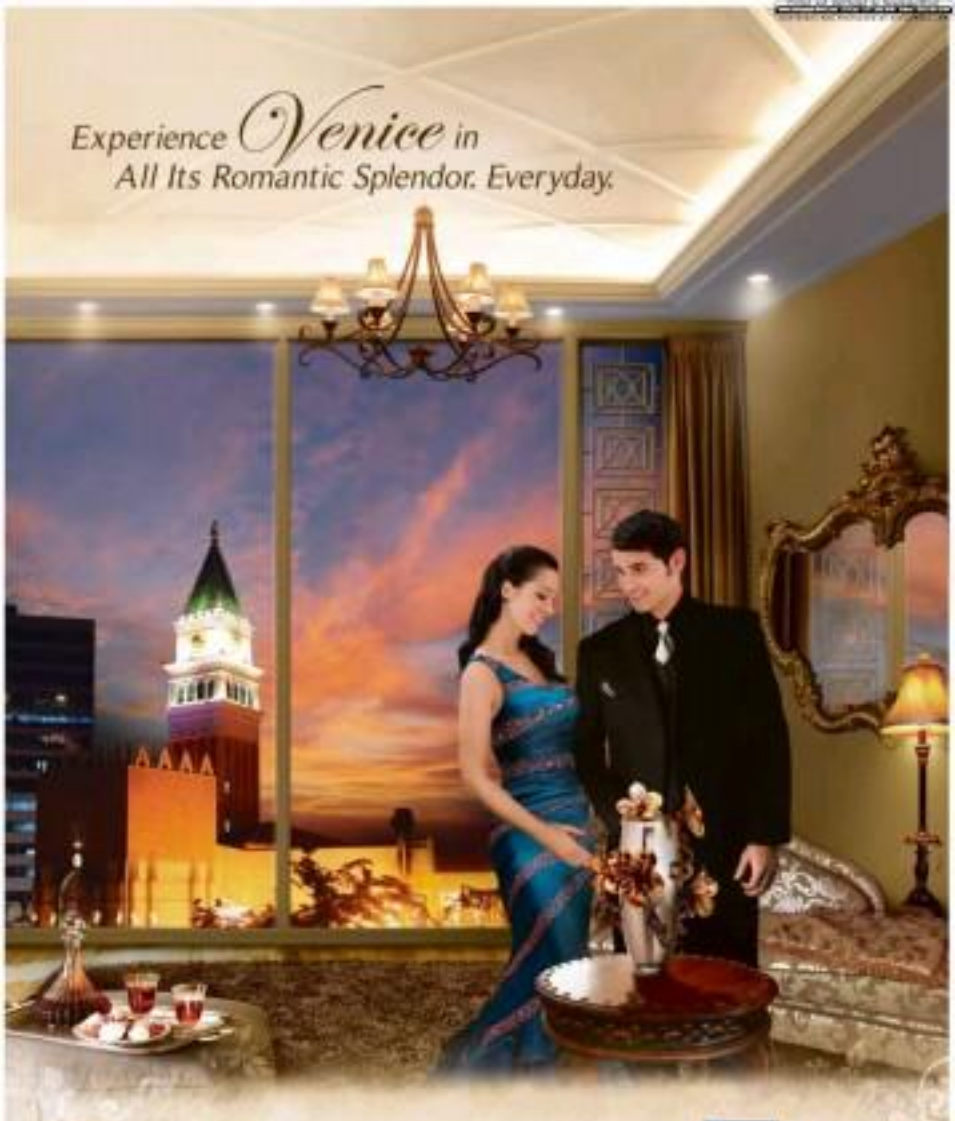

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Editor Abelardo S. Manalo

DID YOU KNOW

[illegible] Artist for Literature Memorandum Lorenzo was born 79 years ago on April 11, 1932. Graduated at the age of five and raised by his paternal grandmother, the literary critic, poet and educator was given the Ramon Magsaysay Award in Journalism, Literature and Creative Communication Arts in 1983. — **Soliget Abelardo Inquirer Research**

MMDA, PNP, AFP all set for Holy Week

By Mike Morales

IN PREPARATION for the huge volume of vehicles leaving Metro Manila starting next week for the Holy Week break, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) has drawn up a plan to ease the flow of traffic in thoroughfares leading out of the metropolis.

In a radio interview, MMDA Chair Francis Tolentino yesterday said that Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) will form a multisectoral effort involving the agency, toll ways officials, the police and officials and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

According to the MMDA chair, he expects the number of people leaving Metro Manila for the provinces to be more or much as last year since Holy Week this year coincides with the end of the school year, hence, this (will) cause traffic congestion at exit points of the Metro and [an] increase [in] accidents."

To ensure the smooth flow of traffic, Tolentino said the agency was coordinating with operators of North Luzon and South Luzon expressways just to make sure that their traffic management plans were in order.

The MMDA also asked the (are toll way operators to put up additional toll booths to handle the additional volume of motorists, he added.

Tolentino said the MMDA would be putting up signs advising motorists to take the Mindanao Avenue exit on the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) for those headed for C5 Road to ease traffic in Balintawak. He clarified, however, that he was still seeking the approval of NLEx authorities before the MMDA could put up advisories.

At the same time, the MMDA was also coordinating with the police and military to ensure the security of people who would remain in the metropolis.

Tolentino said that members of the National Capital Region Police Office and the Philippine National Police Highway Patrol Group had been tapped to manage traffic in streets now barricaded against terrorists on top of their usual security duties.

The police were also asked to keep a close watch in operation of public utility vehicles who might take advantage of the huge number of people headed home by making unauthorized provincial trips.

As for the military, Tolentino said the National Capital Region Command had committed to assign 30 soldiers to keep an eye on bus stations and loading zones in Balintawak.

The DPWH, on the other hand, would be responsible for checking the roads to ensure that no construction or obstacles would hamper the travel of motorists.

Tolentino said that MMDA personnel would be deployed to traffic choke points, churches and pilgrimage sites to offer assistance to the public while the agency's MMDA Mobile would facilitate communication among its men.

Meanwhile, the head of the Southern Police District (SPD) has ordered his men to implement their security plans for

MMDA 10A

New head for QCPD

THE QUEZON City Police District (QCPD) will soon have a new chief.

Chief Supt. George Ngeh, the deputy director for administration of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO), will take over the top QCPD post on Thursday, April 14.

Ngeh is a native of the Philip-

NEW 12A

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Barangay chair shot dead

By Mike Morales

A BARANGAY chair who was trying to stamp out illegal drugs in his community in Pasay City was gunned down by two men on Saturday night, according to the police.

Case investigator PO3 Mauricio Igos said that Rolando Tumbagaan died on the spot after he was shot repeatedly in the head by the gunmen who had yet to be identified.

Tumbagaan, who was elected chair of Barangay 183 Zone 19 in Pasay City, was drinking coffee in his house on Riggins Street in the Maricaban area at around 7:50 p.m. when the two men barged inside and fired upon him.

The police said the two men were wearing helmets to hide their identities. They instantly escaped after the attack on the victim.

An initial investigation into Tumbagaan's death showed that he was an active campaigner against the proliferation of illegal drugs in his area.

The police said they were continuing follow-up operations to find his killers.

METROBRIEFS

420 families lose homes

MORE than 300 homes were destroyed when a fire hit a community of informal settlers on Sanitarya Street Pateros in Isya, Pandacan City, on Saturday afternoon. A total of 420 families were left homeless, according to fire marshal Chief Supt. Manuel M. Manuel of the city's Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP). Manuel said the fire damaged around P2 million worth of property in Barangay Bangkal in the Coastal Riverside. The blaze, according to BFP, started from an overheated stove in the house owned by Bob Bolilan. No deaths or casualties were reported as a result of the fire that broke out at 3:26 p.m. It reached the general alarm, prompting the city's BFP to ask for assistance from all fire stations in the metropolis, before it was put out at 5:00 p.m. Arina Corrales, a resident of nearby Barangay Don Bahi who had installed the Sto. said that their area was fire prone despite the fact that it was situated beside a river.

Pascalyn F. Lagdaan

Cook found dead

DUSIT seemingly cried in the assistant cook of a restaurant on España Boulevard in Sampaloc, Manila, Arnel Calandra, 32, a stay-in worker of 1002 Pedroncel at the corner of P. Noval Street, was found dead in his room on Easter this night. As the police noted to external physical injuries on his body, the cause of death remains inconclusive. Calandra was found lying on his bed with his arms crossed, a bedspread still on his mouth. The lights and the television were on in his room, said investigator PO2 Roderick Pacles of the Manila Police District Homicide section said in his report report. Based on the statements of his coworkers, Calandra was last seen at around 3:30 p.m. that day while buying a cigarette. All

Truck helper killed

A 24-YEAR-OLD truck helper was stabbed dead by a man in front of a videoke bar in Caloocan City at dawn yesterday. Yesler Villeria, 34, a resident of Rafaelcruz Street in Bagong Barrio, Caloocan City, managed to run away from his attacker but he collapsed when he got to a nearby barangay hall. Case investigator PO2 Alejandro Bilindo said the victim was having drinks in a videoke bar when a man approached him at around 3 a.m. yesterday, asked him a challenging question then stabbed him. The victim died while being treated in a hospital.

Mike Gallego

New head for QCPD

From page A09

pino Military Academy's Magigal Class of 1988. His classmates include NCRPO chief Director Nicanor Bartolome and the incumbent QCPD director Chief Supt. Benjardi Matarik.

He used to be the station commander of two densely populated areas in the city—QCPD Station 4 in Novaliches and Station 6 in the Batasan Pambansa area.

Matarik, meanwhile, will assume the post of Police Regional Office 11 director, according to a police communication released to the business

Matarik will take over from Chief Supt. Gil Meinrado who will replace Chief Supt. Samuel Pagdilao Jr. as Caldaoan's police director.

Pagdilao was recently appointed head of the PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group. *Nancy C. Carvajal*

Citizen's call 4467

FOOTBRIDGE NEEDED

Rose, 47, of Tandang Sora, Quezon City, writes: Calling the attention of MMDA. Please put up a footbridge on E. Tauzon corner Quezon Avenue here across Manila Center in Quezon City, Quezon Avenue is on sale for pedestrians to cross.

Leaking water pipe in Parañaque City

Attention, Maynilad Water Co. For the past several days, we have been complaining about a leaking pipe on F. Dr. Iglesia Street at BF Homes Phase 2 in Parañaque City which has resulted to the gradual clean water spouting from dilapidated parts of the street. Buyang na nan! (What a waste!) Please repair the leak immediately.

Cathy, 42, Parañaque City

Vendors occupy busy roads in Manila

Attention, Mayor Alfredo Lim, why is it that the vendors away vendors from other areas but can't do the same here in Rizal and Evangelista Streets in Quiapo? The number of vendors in the area has grown and they have gotten more brazen. They not only occupy the street, they have also taken over the sidewalk and vehicles have nowhere to go. I have complained a couple of times but I have seen little change from hectic-worse because of the vendors.

Eddie, 38, Manila

Illegal jeepney stop

Jeepney drivers take turns long time to pick up passengers at the corner of Dagalang-Zapanta Streets in Manila. As a result, traffic is heavy in the area from Monday to Friday with barangay officials not doing anything about the situation.

Ronald, 27, Manila

Traffic light set working

The erratic light on the intersection of Maginoo, A. Bonifacio and Del Monte is not working, putting commuters and motorists at risk. The concerned government agencies should take action immediately.

Jr., 30, Manila

Traffic enforcer needed

Calling the attention of MMDA and QC traffic enforcers. Why don't you assign a traffic enforcer on Zabarte Road, particularly near North Olympus Subdivision, because there is an illegal U-turn slot here? Jeepney barkers also contribute to heavy traffic in the area, along with illegal vendors.

Regel 08, 26, Novaliches, Quezon City

Dishonest cab driver

The driver of a taxi cab with license plate TYG 829 was fined by MMDA for a traffic violation and charged with a fraud value of P250 instead of leaving the tax on the meter reading. It be advised to do this!

Edz, 18, Parañaque City

MMDA, PNP, AFP all set for Holy Week

From page A03

Holy Week.

"Semana Santa is a marked date as we already have a plan for the security of travelers and commuters who will leave and come back from provinces or vacation trips," MPD director Chief Supt. Jose Asne or his home and provinces.

At the same time, AFP's spokesperson Chief Insp. Jessy Dumlao suffered the following tips to motorists and commuters who would be traveling to the provinces:

- Look all doors and windows if no one will be left at home. Set burglar alarms if available; avoid leaving valuables in conspicuous places by leaving some running. Some owners are not aware of, follow a trusted neighbor of the dates of your departure and return. Lastly, call gas stoves, unplug all appliances. Be sure home the radio or gas to decisive robbers. Don't leave things like clothes or bikes outside the house.
- For commuters, arrive early at bus or airline terminals for baggage and identity checks to be conducted by the police; secure police or guards when transporting bags or people are sighted in the area, avoid wearing jewelry or other accessories that might attract the attention of robbers. Bring just enough baggage based on the duration of your trip to avoid losing or misplacing your bags.
- Be car owners, do a P.U.V.E.H.I.C.L.E. Converter, light, oil, seat, brakes, air and gas check. Bring complete driving documents, including insurance certificates. The designated driver should be alert at all times. Avoid driving with just one hand or sending text messages while behind the wheel. *With a report from Penelope B Endaso*

CANCER NEVER EQUALING TO DEATH:
Radioactive Seed Implantation
Killing Cancer Cell Continuously

Radioactive seed implantation, also called "in vivo gamma knife" or "seed knife", is a new tumor treatment, having high precision, little trauma, good effects and low rates of complications.

Prof. Peng Xiaochi, chief expert, with Guangzhou Modern Cancer Hospital advocates that patients with middle/advanced tumor choose minimally invasive integrated therapy due to high rates of complications and high mortality for middle/advanced tumor. He believes that any treatment should start from ensuring the patients' well-being through individualized integrated therapy plan.

Judy, aged 61, from Japan, went to a hospital for treatment due to soreness, pain and nerve dysfunction in her left lower limb. Biopsy from sacroiliac tumor indicated metastatic cancer of the sacrum. All hope dashed into pieces when Judy learned it was cancer, and she ignored any treatment. Judy was referred to chief expert Prof. Peng Xiaochi with Guangzhou Modern Cancer Hospital for treatment. Prof. Peng Xiaochi came to the conclusion that Judy's body cannot tolerate surgery due to the massive tumor and poor physical status. Based on her medical information, he suggested radioactive seed implantation tailored to Judy.

"Compared with conventional radiotherapy, radioactive seed implantation has advantages of high-degree conformal radiation, local control and continuous low dose. It only will not destroy tumor tissue and prevent cancer cells from re-hyperplasia and repairing themselves, but also avoids damage to normal tissue. All these compensate conventional radiotherapy to some extent", said Prof. Peng Xiaochi.

Prof. Peng Xiaochi and other experts determined the entry point and entry angle of the needle for accurate placement of seed implants into the tumor based on CT scanning image. All 88 pieces of I-125 seed implants were evenly distributed inside the tumor, which keep emitting low dose ray by micro radioactive source. This continuously kills tumor cells. Thus, tumor cells lose reproductivity while avoiding damage to normal tissue.

Judy's sacral pain was greatly relieved three days after the implantation. This fully displayed the characteristics of the quick effects and advantages of I-125 seed implantation. One month later, CT scanning image indicated that the tumor shrank remarkably. Judy's medical condition remained stable following two cycle of radioactive seed implantation. "I can live normally with such I-125 seed implants smaller than a grain of rice" Judy said happily.

Guangzhou Modern Cancer Hospital has performed radioactive seed implantation to treat primary and metastatic cancers including lung cancer, liver cancer, ovarian cancer, cancer of large intestine and nasopharyngeal cancer . All of which achieved remarkable therapeutic results.

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Police fire live rounds on protesters in Yemen

SANAA, Yemen—Clashes broke out late on Saturday evening between security forces and demonstrators, killing one protester and wounding 15, the hospital said. Another 15 were treated at a field hospital at the site.

Security forces opened fire, said witnesses, in the first direct assault on protesters in the capital since snipers killed 52 protesters more than three weeks ago. The shooting followed a week of violence in a countrywide Yemen, where security forces and men in plain clothes have fatally shot about 20 protesters.

But unlike violence began after a group of about 400 protesters tried to march to the presidential palace late in the evening. They were stopped at a major intersection by security forces about a half-mile away from their main site in area.

After an hour of a tense standoff, gunfire started. Many clashes men, wielding guns, were shooting around the police, until had surrounded the area where the protesters had broken off from the main protest site. Two senior ministers also pounded the area.

The demonstrations had been directed out of an area where students under Maj. Gen. Ali Mohsin al-Ahmar, a top military leader who broke with the government last month, guarded the protesters.

After the gunfire started, the protesters temporarily scattered, though some returned, chanting "Peaceful, Peaceful" and "There is no God but Allah."

"At first they shot into the air, and then they shot at us," said Ishaida Ameary, a 14-year-old boy, who was lying on the floor of a nearby mechanic's shop after being stunned by tear gas.

He said "I am not young. I am here with the passion," while Ismail Mohamed, the mechanic, poured water over his burning eyes before the violence erupted. Ambulances, the atmosphere was tense, and periodically the protesters yelled out taunts at the security forces.

"We are escalating our protests," said Gad Sabein, 35, before the gunfire erupted. The majority who left the main protest area appeared to be in their 20s. Many were shirts with the words "project must go" in denim. *New York Times News Service*

Syria forces fire at mourners; UN chief 'greatly disturbed'

AMMAN—Syrian security forces opened fire on country's ruler a mosque in the Southern city of Deraa after a mass funeral for pro-democracy protesters, two witnesses said.

Security forces used live ammunition and tear gas to disperse thousands of people who were chanting freedom slogans after assembling near the old Omari mosque in the old quarter of the city the witnesses said on Saturday.

Dozens of people have been killed in a wave of protests across Syria against the rule of President Bashar al-Assad.

A Syrian rights group said at least 27 people had been killed in protests across the country's on Friday.

"Syrian security commandos fire (in Deraa) what could be called a crime against humanity," the National Organization for Human Rights said in a statement. "It fired indiscriminately on protesters and killed and wounded tens of them."

State television for its part said armed groups had killed 19 policemen and wounded 73 in the city, near the border with Jordan. The Interior Ministry warned it would not tolerate breaches of the law and would deal with "armed groups," state news agency Sana said.

United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon told Assad in a telephone call "he was greatly disturbed by the latest reports of violence against protesters," a UN statement said.

A witness in Deraa said he had seen at least four youths wounded by snipers being taken by protesters to a nearby clinic.

Residents say people avoid taking many of the wounded to state-run hospitals for fear the injured will be arrested by plain-clothes security personnel stationed in the hospitals.

Popular demonstrations calling for greater freedom, inspired by Arab uprisings that began in Tunisia and Egypt, have shaken Syria, as said has responded with a mixture of force against protesters, promises to curtail political reform and concessions to counter-terror Muslims, including closing Syria's only casino.

In the only hours of Saturday, security forces used live ammunition to disperse hundreds of people in Latakia, causing scores of injuries and possible deaths, residents said.

One witness said he had seen security trucks washing blood off the streets near Tahhawaniah School in the Sheikh district. *Reuters*

China detains Protestants over public praying

BEIJING—The police detained dozens of members of a house church in a predominantly Protestant church on Sunday morning after the congregation tried to pray in a public place to the north of the capital.

The police surrounded scores of parishioners into buses and blocked church leaders from leaving their homes. Among those detained was a photographer who was later released.

Last week the church, Shouwang, was evicted from the space it had been renting after the government pressured the landlord not to renew the lease. The congregation, one of the largest so-called house churches in China, has been seeking legal recognition from the authorities since 2006 without success.

After years of tolerance by the country's religious authorities, unregistered churches have been facing increased pressure to either declare their allegiance to state-controlled organizations. There are as many as 58 million Protestants in China, with a growing number choosing house churches.

The government's campaign against Shouwang, which numbers around 1,000 members, has been escalating since 2008, when the antisubversion began leaving the 1,000-member congregation out of its rented quarters. In 2009, after an earlier eviction, the church paid 2.35 million yuan a month, or $4.3 million, for a full floor of an office building but the owner of the space, under pressure from the authorities, has refused to hand over the keys.

The most against Shouwang comes at a time of escalating repression against dissent, a campaign that has led to the jailing of scores of rights lawyers, writers and activists. Among those arrested last week was Ai Weiwei, one of the country's best-known artists and an outspoken government critic, who was detained as he tried to board a plane for Hong Kong. The government has denied targeting Ai for his activism, saying he is under police for unspecified "economic crimes."

A man who answered the phone at the Haidian police station, which is special block there, the site of the planned prayer service, refused to answer questions about the detentions on Sunday. Most of those detained were taken to a nearby elementary school, where they were briefly questioned and photographed.

The church made no secret of its attempt to gather outdoors, announcing its plans on the Internet and publicly explaining that it had no choice but to pray in public. During the four services last week at the restaurant, the church had been renting, the pastor, the Rev. Jin Tianming, wanted parishioners that they would likely meet outdoors.

"At this time, the challenges are there are measures," he said. "For everything that we have faced, we offer our thanks to God. Compared with what you faced on the cross, what we face now is truly insignificant."

Scuffles broke out between members, Ai and other church leaders were blocked from leaving their homes by the police Sunday. Dozens of others were seized as they emerged from the subway station at Zhongguancun plaza, a popular shopping area where the services were scheduled to be held. *New York Times News Service*

7 killed in shooting at stores near Amsterdam

EMMEN—A gunman went on a deadly rampage among workers and shoppers in a small town in the Netherlands on Monday evening in and out of shops, shooting and killing until he finally turned his automatic weapon on himself, Dutch officials said, and witnesses said.

The attack, in the town of Alphen, left seven people dead, including the gunman, and at least 10 wounded, three of them in critical condition, the police said.

"I heard seconds like firecrackers, and I saw people running and falling," said a woman who said she watched part of the scene from her balcony and was questioned by NU, a Dutch news website.

The tourist mayor, Jan Snellaars, told reporters: "There were a lot of families around, parents and children. It's almost impossible to understand. It's too terrible for words."

Several other shopping sites near the town were cordoned off after the police found a note in the attacker's car that said explosives had been placed at three other shopping areas, but the police found no evidence to back that up. The office of the public prosecutor said that the man had "almost certainly" acted alone.

Investigators have identified the suspect as Stefan van der Vlis, 34, a Dutch who lived with his father and fled from the site of his killing spree. By Saturday evening they said they had not found an explanation for why the young man, dressed in a bomber jacket and camouflage pants, got out of his car on a street running and calmly opened fire, seemingly at random, on adults and children alike.

The police said that van der Vlis had built a corner of his mother's home, but that it contained no explosives themselves. *New York Times News Service*

WORLDBRIEFS

2 protesters killed in Cairo's Tahrir Square

CAIRO—Egypt's security forces shot and killed at least two protesters and wounded dozens before dawn on Saturday in an attempt to disperse peaceful demonstrators occupying the night in the capital's iconic Tahrir Square, officials and witnesses said. The crackdown was the most brutal since the overthrow of former President Hosni Mubarak on Feb. 11 and since the military started running the country. While the issues reinforced with anger and political, several protest leaders issued renounced statements that appeared to be aimed at de-escalating the confrontations and heading off further violence. While politicians and protest leaders were encouraged, the mood in the square was not happy. "The military leaders are corrupt, ignorant criminals!" shouted one protester. Eyewit, who would not give his last name for fear of reprisals. "The most protest, we must leave Tahrir and go to the Ministry of Defense." *New York Times News Service*

Gbagbo loyalists regain ground in Ivory Coast

PARIS—As the wily Ivory Coast strongman Laurent Gbagbo remained cornered in the basement of the presidential residence in Abidjan on Saturday, his forces retook the offensive in a series of military actions, helping recent predictions of his imminent downfall. Since Friday, forces loyal to Gbagbo have recaptured territory in Abidjan, the economic capital, repelled a French military operation, attacked the rival's headquarters and recaptured state television and radio, which resumed broadcasting messages of defiance. Gbagbo was still surrounded by forces loyal to his rival, Alassane Ouattara, the country's internationally recognized president, who have backed by troops from France and the United Nations. *New York Times News Service*

Officer shot dead by sailor aboard UK nuke sub

LONDON—A Royal Navy officer in charge of the weapons on a nuclear-armed submarine was shot dead by a fellow sailor who opened fire with an assault rifle aboard the vessel, Britain's defense ministry said on Saturday. The gunman reportedly wounded a second sailor before being tackled by a visiting dignitary and disarmed. The ministry named the dead man as Lt. Cmdr. Ian McKenzie, 36, the weapons engineer top officer on HMS Astute. The wounded officer was in stable condition in a hospital. Saturday, police said. A junior sailor, identified by British media as 22-year-old Ryan Donovan, is being held on suspicion of murder. Details say the incident was not related to terrorism, but have not revealed a possible motive for the attack.

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Casco

Gadhafi's forces reach gates of key rebel city

AJDABIYA, Libya—Military forces loyal to Moammar Gadhafi pressed a coordinated ground attack on Ajdabiya on Saturday, bringing the front lines of the battle with Libyan opposition forces back to the doorstep of this strategically vital rebel city.

Gadhafi's forces began the assault late on Saturday morning with barrages of rockets or artillery fire more the city's center. Then, as the smoke rose and confusion reigned, they sent a contingent of ground troops into the city where a gunbattle broke out.

The loudest assault was more determined and organized than the ambushes and exchanges of rockets and artillery fire of recent days. Barrage after barrage of incoming fire shuddered and exploded in the city, and loyalist troops advanced behind them. Thick smoke rose and emitted from scattered pairs of fighter jets, and by noon, doctors were evacuating the city's hospital so ex. pharmacists shook the streets.

Many of the rebels fled once again, streaming north on the highway toward Benghazi, the rebel capital, their hopes crushing. One rebel shouted as vehicles he crazy passed: "Gadhafi's forces are coming! Go! Go! Go!"

But at least a small cadre of fighters around local residents remained to fight for their homes, stopping at least advancing loyalists on the central traffic circle.

"We killed 18 of them," said Emad Dahim, who stood in the mosque to the late afternoon over the body of his brother, Abdel Ghafir, who had been shot between the eyes. "Our group split into two groups on Jaladdel Street and fought them. The fighting was very heavy."

At the gun battle earlier, the city raged, the main rebel force rallied about 15 kilometers north and by evening was flowing back past the city's southeastern checkpoint, from where they formed out and briefly re-established a degree of control of Ajdabiya's eastern and central areas.

Gunfire roared to ebb in those areas in the evening, but skirmishes could be heard at the city's southern and western ends, and then the barrages started again, prompting many rebels to flee anew.

It was a confusing, fast moving and violent day with lurch reaches and panic no display. Brutality was evident, too, in the form of summary.

At mid-afternoon, as rebels were smoking cars at the city's northeastern checkpoint and the fighting continued, they dragged a man from a vehicle, cuffed him to the far shoulder of the road and shot him. The man's destination, and his being buried, could be viewed by bloodshot from a few hundred yards away, though the gunmen was not visible because the crowd around the man at that moment was too thick.

Journalists from The New York Times who attempted to interview the executioners were chased away by gunfire, appears to come in rival that ranged over the checkpoints and its environs. The bullets scattered the crowd.

After the gunfire subsided, seven of rebels said the man had been shot because he was known to be a loyalist agents. His name could not immediately be determined.

Nato air strikes came into play to the battle—at least one large rocket-storm cloud rose from the city's western side about 3:25 p.m. as pro-Gadhafi forces were barraging the city. But again the effort of air campaigns was unable to keep Gadhafi's military from pressing the attack, as has been the case throughout a week of fighting that saw the ragged opposition forces losing key footholds on the main coastal road, including the city of Brega.

Hakim, clutching a battered assault rifle as he wandered the mosque while his brother's body was being washed, seemed both angry and perplexed. To reach Ajdabiya, the Gadhafi loyalists had crossed roughly 80 km of open desert.

"Where is Nato?" he said. "The Gadhafi military came from Brega to Ajdabiya. Why do they not stop them?"

Though the air strikes have deprived the pro-Gadhafi forces use of many of their armored vehicles, the rebels have been unable to match them in the open desert. Gadhafi forces have managed to move artillery or rocket launchers forward, with which they pounded rebel positions for several days.

Moving in small units in civilian trucks and cars, they have managed to evade air strikes and to confuse the rebel forces, which they can assemble from ambushes.

Simultaneously to the loyalists have managed to creep artillery or rocket launchers forward, with which they pounded rebel positions for several days and now have refused on the city.

New York Times News Service

FRANCHISE 2011 to Highlight Phl in Global Franchising Map; JFC's Tan Caktiong & 7-Eleven's Tanco Confirm as Speakers

Philippine Franchise Association (PFA) president Pedro Pardo Ortaña announced the staging of Asia's greatest franchise event to be held in the country this coming September 22-25 at the SMX Convention Center.

Dubbed Franchise Asia 2011 with the theme "Asia on the World. The World to Asia," the event will gather international delegates from the 42 country franchise association members of the World Franchise Council (WFC) and the Asia-Pacific Franchise Confederation (APFC).

Ortaña who is also chairman of Wendy's Philippines highlighted the importance of the biggest gathering of franchise leaders in the Philippines. "We are strengthening the Philippines' position as the franchise hub of Asia and to further raise the country's profile as an important investment destination in the side of the region."

In announcing the joint Franchise Asia 2011 chair Jing Sikat Limpoc said the event will highlight a panel discussion the positive role the Philippines as a logistics hub, investment and tourism destination. She said the entire economic franchising sector, through the head offices of the PFA, will unite to showcase the country's best in food, retail and service franchise concepts for entrepreneurs and investment opportunity seekers.

"This prestigious four-in-one event offers a "win-win" situation for both international and Pilipino franchise companies. Through the Philippines, foreign brands get to showcase their concepts to Asia while Pilipino brands get to showcase their concepts to the world," Limpoc said.

Meanwhile, Anthon Jeremias and CEO Eng. San Caktiong signed a deal this International Conference component of Fil 2011 as a keynote speaker. The 2004 Ernest and Young's "Entrepreneur of the Year" will consider her fame of a Philippine franchise success story. She is known for both locally and internationally. In addition, 7-Eleven International senior vice president Chris Tanco has also confirmed his speaking engagement in the event.

Hosted in this development, PFA continues to make promotional steps at the world's most popular franchise event. Last year, the group participated in the country's marketing push on Franchise Asia (FA) 2010 at the 51st International Franchise Association (IFA) Convention in Las Vegas but in February, in April, Limpoc and Ortaña, Dominican Emeritus Derek Lim at the World Franchise Council (WFC) meeting that will be hosted by the German Franchise Association in Bayern, Germany.

The PFA officials will meet with the event's leading franchise executives and professionals attending the WFC to encourage their participation in the FA 2011. After the WFC meeting, Limpoc and PFA Executive Director Chit Salinda will proceed to Rome, Italy to hold a franchise seminar for Overseas Filipinos in coordination with the Philippine Embassy in Rome. The seminar will give the Italian Filipino community an overview of the country's franchise investment opportunities in the Philippines.

"Through PFA's bilateral relations with the other member countries, we have the opportunity to participate and to promote franchising as an international franchise shows," said Limpoc. "We are doing our best to gather as much attendees in Manila as possible. More than providing business opportunities, we are also promoting the entire Philippines as a top-notch business, tourism and investment destination."

Limpoc, who also sits as PFA vice chair, added "This is the first time that the Philippines is hosting the prestigious international event. The first one that was held in 2007 opened a floodgate of opportunities for the franchising and business sectors. The time around, we hope that the holding of the event in Manila again will redound to more economic gains for the franchising sector in particular and for the country in general as it has been proven to its multiplier effects. Franchising has greatly contributed to the development of thousands of entrepreneurs and the generation of hundreds of thousands of employment."

WHAT'S INSIDE

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SPORTS

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Assistant Editor Ferreric T.J. Cultura

- **Masterpiece** in the making at Augusta /A32

Soquet gains first semis berth

Filipinos Lining, Biado still alive in losers' bracket; Ouschan falls

GERMANY Ralf Soquet draws closer to his first title in Manila with a 9-2 rout of Taiwanese Huhsiaoyu

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By Cedelf P. Tupas

FURTHER TO RISE! champion Ralf Soquet of Germany overwhelmed compatriot Thorsten Hohmann, 9-2, yesterday to reach the semifinals, even as Filipinos Antonio Lining and Carlo Biado remained in the hunt in the Philippine Open Pool Championships at the SM Megamall Megatrade Hall in Mandaluyong.

Still in search of his first title in the country, the clean-shaven Soquet remained unscathed by following up his (tight 9-8 victory over former World 14.1+2 titlist Darren Appleton of England with a convincing display against Hohmann.

Free from the burden of expectations, Biado coolly rallied into the quarterfinals after pulling off three victories, including a 9-3 rout of defending champion Ricky Yang and a 9-7 stopping of his fancied compatriot Dennis Orcollo, to set up a showdown with the highly regarded Ouschan.

Handicapped as he battered those veterans was a 9-6 win over unheralded Taiwanese Tsai Hsiao-Kang, who won 10-8 against Lining in the knockout stage.

Antonio Lining, who won Leo Von Corteza in the losers' bracket to make a 9-3 win earlier, missed his first chance of punching his ticket to the quarterfinals, yielding a late three-rack lead in an 8-9 defeat to Lin Haotian of China.

Lin will face the winner of the Hohmann-Biado clash.

13th rack runout

Bearing back from a 8-6 deficit, the 47-year-old Lining, moved on the hill after running out the 13th rack.

But the World No. 2 from Mindoro missed a 2-0 combination on the next rack and watched his shot on the orange five on the next rack table out of the bottom corner, giving the Chinese a lifeline.

Lin returned his fourth breaking and running out the next two racks to complete the stunning win and relegate Lining to the losers' bracket, where he was to play Appleton, who ousted Pin Chieh-nan, 9-2.

The winner of the Lining-Appleton duel will move forward for a place in the elite match, which dangles a $10,000 purse.

Biado opened his day by outclassing Yang, who won the same tournament as the co-champion with Filipino Joel De Luna two years ago.

Brilliant positional play

Showing no nonchalance, Biado frustrated Orcollo with his precise positioning and brilliant positional play, proving to be too much for the Filipino to handle after the 13th rack, before losing the next two.

Orcollo, suing a bridge, missed a shot on the pink ball in the 14th rack, allowing Biado to clean up and seal the victory.

Amidol Macoy also got the best yesterday after losing to Chinese-Taipei's Chang Anqin, 9-8.

Allen Guerrero, Rustil Gallego and Rolando dela Cruz were all shown the door Saturday night.

Guerrero, a bronze medalist in the tournament's debut effort beating Chen Chieh-yu of Chinese-Taipei, 9-6, Lin will face Kelly Fisher, who dumped fan favorite Jeanru Ouschan, 9-8, and Mi Lin Yen, 9-5.

An all-Chinese-Taipei home in the women's division with Lin's compatriot Chen Shining also making the last four after a 9-2 drubbing of Lin Yuwen of Chinese-Taipei.

ANTZMAN Lining yields to China's Lin Haotian in bid to be losers' bracket.

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MIO DOSPESO
EASY ROCK

Nietes knocks out Mexican in solid light fly debut

By Ray Luarca

BACOLOD CITY—Model contenders weight champion Nonito "Nony" Nietes struck like a slithering snake, knocking out Mexican national mauler in the first round of his light flyweight debut at the University of St. La Salle Coliseum here Saturday night.

Power punches Jason Pagara and Lorenzo Villanueva also stopped their respective foreign opponents to clinch the PBO Youth Asia Pacific junior featherweight and WBO Asia Pacific featherweight titles, respectively.

The 19-year-old Pagara knocked out Tanzanian's Zeu Njika with a well-timed counter left hook in the second round while Villanueva finished off Indonesian Junior Mokagenta with two solid body punches, two minutes and 11 seconds gone in the fifth round.

Villanueva retained his crown for the third time in the well-attended light card dubbed Pilipinas in Pinoy Pride 5: Battle of Champions presented by ALA Promotions, ABS-CBN and the Bacolod City government.

Nietes, the World Boxing Organization #16-ranked for more than three years and six months now, annexed Vasquez, who's three inches shorter at 5 feet like, then unleashed a right hook that nearly sent the Mexican tumbling over.

Vasquez tried to get up using the ropes but couldn't beat the count of referee Jimor Hechanova with 2:30 gone in the round.

The 28-year-old Nietes, who earns the distinction of defending his crown three times against Mexicans in Mexico, raised his record to 28 wins, 16 by knockouts, one loss and three draws while Vasquez absolutely to 16-5.

Next up for Nietes is the winner of the April 30 showdown for the WBO light flyweight interim championship between Ramon Garcia Hirales and Jesus Gonzalez.

Villanueva, stalwart of the Brandsen Boxing Club of Antonio Nonito Catalano Gym Manny Pillol, improved to 20 wins, 10 by knockouts, against one no contest. Mokagenta dipped to 15-5-1.

Pillol said he intends to give Villanueva two more quality fights before seeking a showdown against unbeaten Juan Mario Lopez.

The rangy Pagara also knocked down the Tanzanian twice in the first two rounds. He improved to 26 wins, 11 by knockouts, against one loss.

Present during the bout, which drew close to 10,000 spectators, were businessman/sportsmen Dodong Bascon, Silay mayor Mercedes Gonzalez-Montelibano, her congressmen Monico Puentevella, fight promoter Walter Salud, and ALA promotions' Tony Aldeguer.

Express forge do-or-die tiff

By Jane Navarro

SUPER BANGURA once shows everybody else just what everybody started to entertain thoughts of another Alaska upset at the Ganaza Antrodome last night.

Bangura scored 40 points, including a crucial tip-in with nine running sec, and the NCC Express avoided another endgame collapse with a 91-86 victory over the Aces that stretched their PBA Commissioner's Cup quarterfinal series to the limit.

The Aces, who came from behind to win the opener of the best-of-three duel, 91-89, Wednesday, rallied from 20 points down to threaten at 84-86 with a minute and 46 seconds left behind a triple by Lit Rosario.

But Bangura grabbed Danny Seigle's second free-throw miss over the 6-foot-9 Senegal import and answered it with 42.3 seconds left for an 89-84 that finally doomed the Aces.

"We're desperate, Guys weren't ready to go home yet," said Bangura, whose rebound/put-back just as the game ended put the exclamation point on Alaska's storybook act.

"We want to win. It's going to be a dogfight in Game 3," said Bangura of Wednesday's do-or-die clash for the right to face Talk 'N Text in the semifinals starting Friday.

The NCC import had 22 points in the first half while Josh Urbiztondo and Leo Avenido drilled a pair of threes as the Express went on a 12-4 run and ended with a 66-percent shooting clip.

Bangura's slam on a break made it a 20-point edge for the Express late in the first half.

ALASKA import Lil Williams (middle) gets trapped by the NCC trio of Alpha Bangura (right), Dondon Hontiveros (left) and Jay-R Reyes during last night's game. ACES PHOTO

School's never out for varsity teams

SUMMER is here and it's time for college teams to draw up training and preparations for the forthcoming school leagues.

One volleyball, the Shakey's V-League provides college students an opportunity to sharpen their forays by playing top-level games. But before the start of the season, the cream of the crop in the country and are usually champions or contenders of their own tournaments.

Although perennial powerhouses University of Santo Tomas and La Salle have bagged off from the current tournament for their own reasons, the current crop of talents still provide the Shakey's V-League fortified with action-packed games.

The Ateneo de Manila University Lady Eagles of Letha is one squad worth watching because they won't lead for every point and are not fazed by the fancied reputations of the Manila rivals.

Television exposure of the V-League and the UAAP tournaments over the years have reinforced their volleyball in our sports we could tout in. Our players, both in the women's and men's divisions, have height and excellent court skills. The game just needs a godfather or a staunch supporter that can maintain a strong national squad.

In basketball, the Filoil Flying V Preseason tournament allows teams to test their preparations and lineups against real competition.

The tournament will surely help teams find and establish their own color for the start of competition. The season-ler finds opening game last Saturday brought out the competitive best from the players.

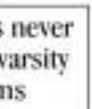
Ateneo rookie Kiefer Ravena definitely revealed that he is ready for the college game by showing poise and talent way beyond his young years.

Ian Seigle showed his championship grit by not folding to rest. It gave Ateneo a chance to be in the endgame before Ravena and Greg Slaughter sealed the win for the Blue Eagles.

Today's younger generation of basketball Atenistas may never really understand why their alumni are such a competitive breed when the rest didn't have a chance to meet in a tournament. The rivalry has been conquered by time and that is why we have to play to deliver leagues. It was different, however, in the NCAA of the 1950s to the 2000s when the Eagles and the Lions disputed several basketball championships.

The rivalry between the two schools is often resulted in unrulled for pungent violence. Ateneo left the NCAA after losing to two fouls in a closed door championship in 1977.

The varsity athletes may have a few opportunities to head to the beach or simply leave unusual during the summer vacation, but school is never really out the three because there is always a season to be prepared for in the school and no community have a competitive team to root for come pandemic.



ONE GAME AT A TIME

JAY SARMIENTO

Datu, Pascua hurdle rivals

LINGAYEN—Top seeds John Alron Sura and Hershia Pascua battled separate semifinal wins Saturday on the start of the 2011 National Age Group Swim Championships at the Narciso Ramos Civic and Sports Center.

Ranked first in the premier boys' 18-under division, Sura crushed Lee Francis de Leon while No. 1 Pascua clobbered Kristi Delights.

A total of 270 players spread over 12 age-group divisions are taking part in the seasoned Swim System event.

Among the other winners in the boys' 16-under were Jan Nigel Galan, Mian Clemente Navarro, Gil Virgen Bueza, Lorenzo Ilarr Salgados and Eldon Meadow Tolentino.

In the day's biggest upset, Stella Theresa Aquino toppled top seed and Women Fide Master Cherry Ann Mojia in the girls 14-under.

In the girls' 16-under, the early-winners were PBE Master Charline Grenzie Camacho, Lorraine Salinas and Jamie Hilary Hermano.

Manila Water

Invitation to Pre-qualification and to Bid

Name of Country: Republic of the Philippines
Name of Project: Rizal Province Water Supply Improvement Project (RPWSIP)

Manila Water Company Incorporated (MWCI) is currently undertaking various water supply service improvement and expansion projects in the entire East Concession Area.

MWCI is looking into Laguna de Bay as one of the water sources that will augment the water supply coming from the Angat-Ipo Dam System. Target expansion areas are within the municipalities of the Rizal Province.

The Rizal Province Water Supply Improvement Project (RPWSIP) will directly abstract and process water from the Laguna de Bay to produce 100 Million Litres per Day of potable water. The project is divided into two packages:

1. Package 1A – this package comprises mainly a) raw water intake structure and b) raw water pump station and pipeline.
2. Package 1B – this package comprises mainly a) water treatment plant with waste treatment and disposal facility and b) treated water reservoir.

MWCI would like to invite interested and eligible contracting firms (local and foreign) to submit bids for Package 1A and/or Package 1B of the RPWSIP. Eligibility of interested applicants against the set pre-determined qualification criteria will be announced prior to the bidding process.

Applicants interested to obtain the pre-qualification documents (Instructions to Applicants and Qualification Criteria) are required to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) to participate in the project. The said pre-qualification documents will be available from **18 April 2011**. Deadline for the submission of LOI shall not be later than **28 April 2011, 12:00 NN**.

Interested firms shall be subject to pre-qualification and only complying applicants shall be notified and invited to participate in the bidding process.

Applicants for pre-qualification may submit their Letter of Intent and address all inquiries relating to the project to:

Demosthenes Rectoblo
Project Manager
AECOM
25th Floor, Fort Legend Towers
3rd Avenue corner 31st Street
Bonifacio Global City, Fort Bonifacio
Taguig City, Philippines 1634
Telephone Number: (632) 478 3399
E-mail: rpwsip@aecom.com

Applicants are encouraged to attend the pre-qualification meeting/orientation that will be conducted on **20 April 2011 at 2:00 PM at the MWCI main office, Creativity Center A. Mononeo**, the submission of eligibility documents is on **16 May 2011 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Late submissions will not be accepted.**

MWCI reserves the right to accept or reject any submission, annul the bidding process, or reject all submissions at any time without incurring any liability to the applicants/bidders. This is an invitation to bid only and in no way obligates MWCI to award a contract.

(Sgd.) CRISTINA ESTANISLAUSTE
Senior Manager, Contracts and Vendor Management Department
Manila Water Company Inc.

Republic of the Philippines
Region II
PROVINCE OF LANAO DEL NORTE
Gov. Amanda A. Quibranza Provincial Government Center
Pigcarangan, Tubod, Lanao del Norte

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID FOR CONSTRUCTION WAREHOUSE AND OFFICE BUILDING at the NRMAC

The **Provincial Government of Lanao del Norte (PGLDN)**, through its 2011 Annual Budget intends to apply the sum of **Sixteen Million Nine Hundred Eighty Eight Thousand Pesos (₱16,988,000.00)**, being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) as payments under the contract for the **Construction of Warehouse and Office Building of the NRMAC Support Facilities and Cash Pool Improvement Processing and Trading Center at Brgy. Poblacion, Magsaysay Agro-Industrial Center (NRMAC)**, in the municipality of Lanao, Lanao del Norte. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

The **Provincial Government of Lanao del Norte (PGLDN)** now invites bids for the **Construction of Warehouse and Office Building** for the **NRMAC Support Facilities and Cash Pool Harvest Processing and Trading Center** at the NRMAC in the Municipality of Lanao, Lanao del Norte. Completion of the Works is required on or before **March 31, 2012**. Bidders should have completed, within two (2) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in **Section II. Instructions to Bidders**.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the **Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (R.A.) 9184 (RA 9184)**, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from Provincial Government of Lanao del Norte and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from Monday to Friday during office hours.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of **Fifteen Thousand Pesos (₱15,000.00)**.

It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Provincial Entity, provided that bidders shall pay the fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

The Provincial Government of Lanao del Norte will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on **April 25, 2011** at 10 o'clock in the morning at the Provincial Administrator's Office Conference Room, Third Floor, Provincial Capitol Building, Gov. Amanda A. Quibranza Provincial Government Center, Pigcarangan, Tubod, Lanao del Norte, which shall be open only to all interested parties who have purchased the Bidding Documents.

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 10 o'clock in the morning on **May 9, 2011** at the **Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)** Office, Ground Floor, Provincial Capitol Building, Gov. Amanda A. Quibranza Provincial Government Center, Pigcarangan, Tubod, Lanao del Norte. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in **ITB Clause**.

Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The **Provincial Government of Lanao del Norte (PGLDN)** reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

ENGR. DENNIS P. AGUPO
Acting Provincial Architect
Second Floor, Provincial Capitol Building
Gov. Amanda A. Quibranza Provincial Government Center,
Pigcarangan, Tubod, Lanao del Norte
Tel. No.: +63 (063) 341 1341 local 201
Facsimile No: +63 (063) 341 1345
Email add: arch_pgldn@yahoo.com
www.lanaodelnorte.gov.ph

(Sgd.) MILDRED L. ARNICO
BAC Chairperson

Patrombon crashes pro circuit in India

By Marc Anthony Reyes

JOSON DOMABOBO got to taste life in the pro circuit when he competed as a wild-card entry in the $15,000 ITF Men's Futures event starting today in Chandigarh, India.

The 18-year-old Davaoenon, who for three straight weeks fell to the finals of an many ITF junior singles event last month, said he's keen on doing well in the event, which many of the world's upcoming netmen cut their teeth.

"I've been dreaming of this for a long time," said Patrombon, who also left school to pursue a pro career. He left for India last Tuesday with coach Manny Tecson.

He was able to get a wild card to the main draw through Philippine Tennis Association vice president Ricci Vallejo, although he will have to go through the qualifying stage in the doubles competition for the pesky pro, according to national coach Chito Cuarto, who expects Patrombon to gain the skills and experience he would need when he competes also in the Davis Cup and Southeast Asian Games this year.

"Eventually, he (Patrombon) will be a member of the Davis Cup team," said Cuarto.

Patrombon and Hernandez will still see action in junior competitions where he is still eligible until the end of the year. He said his team, who reached the quarterfinals of the Australian Open boys' singles that year, will compete in the French Open, Wimbledon and US Open.

Santiago, Farid lead Super Tri Kids winners

By Jasmine M. Paje

ALLEN SANTIAGO yanked up the pace in the bike leg and went on to capture the triathlon season yesterday in the 2011 Speedo Super Tri Kids Multi-Sport Festival.

Santiago topped the boys' 13-15 division after conquering the 300m swim-40k bike-2.5k run in 38 minutes and 10 seconds at the Nayong Pilipino Aranta Alabang Village in Muntinlupa.

"I saved myself in the swim because I need to prepare for a big show in the bike," said Santiago, who also bagged a gold in a Singapore duathlon mini-sprint race last January.

The victory also made Santiago, a 1st year-old high school student from Cebu, a strong candidate for the national pool that the Triathlon Association of the Philippines is forming for the 2011 Duathlon Olympic Games in Nanjing.

Justine Kyle Mapoli was second in 42:40, while Marco Pile placed third in 43:03.

Mina Fortuno Farid ruled the girls' 13-15 division in 50:17, followed by Gabriella Salinas (52:47) and Raphaela Maria Dalusa (53:02).

Benjamin Ryan Pangilinan, a 10-year-old son of television personalities Anthony Pangilinan and Maricel Laxa, topped Junior Star Joaquin Morales in a sprint battle by just a second to take the shortest 9-10 age group race.

Pangilinan posted 16:05 in nailing out Morales, Addison Lim (22:40) was third.

(See other Super Tri Kids results tomorrow)

PRISAA NAT'L GAMES

Palaro swim ace strikes

CENTRAL Visayas' Ernesto Ybanez Jr. lands the meet's long jump gold with a leap of 6.85 meters in Dumaguete City

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Palaro veteran Leonardo Schuster made waves in her debut in the Private Collegiate Nationwide Games Sunday by snaring nine golds and a silver as the Ateneo Lumiguan Elementary Sports Complex (ATHC) here.

The 17-year-old University of San Carlos Biology freshman won the women's 200-meter freestyle in two minutes and 15.31 seconds, nabbing the three-year-old record of 2:24.69 set also here by Chanel Lagumbay, and then topped the 50-m free (27.67) later in the day.

But she failed to sweep all her events for the day when Central Visayas settled for second place in the 4x100m freestyle relay in 4:41.04, behind Region 4A (4:37.94), which defeated Day 1 of the swimming event by outscoring Rod 36 Reds at the ATHC pool.

"I'm delighted because I did not expect to do this well in my first Palaro Games," said

Schuster, who won a gold, silver and bronze medal in last year's Palarong Pambansa held in Iloilo, returned to action in the 400m free and 4x200m freestyle relay Monday in the open water sponsored by Globe. Ateneo's Sterling was the individual topnotch in the 5-km race.

The Goldstream natives, hammered by the De La Salle-Dasmariñas dirigers of coach and former national standout Richard Lona, overwhelmed the opposition in splurge of their own.

The Region 3A gold medalists were Hazel Jamaki in the meet's triple free (22:09.92), Jessica Tindang men's 100m IM (5:22.59), Rubben Pillores men's 50m free (25.79), Anna Payo, women's 400m IM (5:59.11), Ian Jerald Ramos, women's 200m butterfly (2:54.38), Kimberly Briones, women's 100m back (1:14.22), men's 400m freestyle relay (4:00.80), women's 200 medley relay (2:28.53), and women's free relay (4:37.94).

Region A (Western Visayas) also had a predatory outing with four gold medals through Joseph Coleta in the meet's 100m breast (1:12.30), Russel Gerero in the 200m butterfly (2:11.61), Gilbert Pangaran in the 100m back (1:08.86) and the 200m medley relay (1:53.28).

Central Visayas bagged its third gold in the women's 100m medley relay (2:31.36), while Region 7's Cielo Cruz topped the women's 800m breast (1:27.24) and Region 7's Lorie Cheng the women's 100m back (1:29.53) to round out the day's pool winners.

(See gold medalists' photos—women: Chanel Angel Lagumbay, Cielo Cruz, Hazel Jamaki, Kimberly Briones, Rubben Pillores, Russel Gerero, Gilbert Pangaran, Ian Jerald Ramos, Jessica Tindang; men: Joseph Coleta, Lorie Cheng)

(See table—Region 4A 4:37.94, Central Visayas 4:41.04, Region 3A 4:46.80, Region 7 4:47.94)

(See swim results—Region 4 A (Ateneo) 42 (21 G, 21 S), Region 3A (Central Luzon) 29 (9 G, 11 S), Region 7 (Central Visayas) 20 (6 G, 8 S), Region 6 (Western Visayas) 17 (4 G, 3 S), NCR (Metro Manila) 9 (1 G, 1 S), Region 12 (Soccsksargen) 1 (1 G), Region 10 (Northern Mindanao) 1 (1 G), Region 11 (Davao) 1 (1 G), Region 9 (Zamboanga Peninsula) 1 (1 G), Region 5 (Bicol) 0 (0 G, 1 S), Region 13 (Caraga) 0 (0 G, 1 S), Region 8 (Eastern Visayas) 0 (0 G, 1 S), Region 1 (Ilocos) 0 (0 G, 0 S), Region 2 (Cagayan Valley) 0 (0 G, 0 S), Region 4B (Southern Tagalog) 0 (0 G, 0 S), Region 12 (Soccsksargen) 0 (0 G, 0 S), Region 10 (Northern Mindanao) 0 (0 G, 0 S), Region 11 (Davao) 0 (0 G, 0 S), Region 9 (Zamboanga Peninsula) 0 (0 G, 0 S), Region 13 (Caraga) 0 (0 G, 0 S), Region 8 (Eastern Visayas) 0 (0 G, 0 S), Region 1 (Ilocos) 0 (0 G, 0 S), Region 2 (Cagayan Valley) 0 (0 G, 0 S), Region 4B (Southern Tagalog) 0 (0 G, 0 S))

Kenyan, Barcena dominate NatGeo 21K run

EDWARD JAMES Tallam and veteran local runner Mary Ann Barcena took home the top prizes in the 2nd National Geographic Chocolate Earth Day Run yesterday at the Bonifacio Global City in Taguig.

Tallam crushed the men's 21K-in-one field in 1:1 minutes and 55 seconds while Barcena, a former national athlete and University of Santo Tomas student, prevailed in 1:27:16.

Tallam and Barcena also topped the 21K race in the 30th Milo Marathon Eliminations in October, and both placed second in the recent Globe Run for Home 21K race also at BGC.

Regis Lumayong (1:37:17) and Ryan Serafin (1:39:15) placed second and third, respectively, in the men's race. Yoshiko Imasaka Carpio was the ladies runner-up in 1:28:44 with Ireland's Aileen Beresford in 1:46:16.

A total of 18,300 runners registered for the NatGeo run, an event that also urged participants to care for the environment.

The Mind Museum in Taguig, the country's first world-class science institution which will have interactive and virtual exhibits of scientific, or historical importance, will get part of the proceeds of the race presented by PLDT MyDSL in partnership with SGV and Geocycle.

Berniebon S. Bustillo

(See winners, Men's 21K—Edward James Tallam 1:1:55, Regis Lumayong (1:37:17), Ryan Serafin (1:39:15); Women's 21K—Mary Ann Barcena (1:27:16), Yoshiko Imasaka Carpio (1:28:44), Aileen Beresford (1:46:16); Men's 10K—Jonathan Lee Gumabon (0:34:19), Jeffrey Ramos (0:34:20), Jeffrey Ramos (0:34:20); Women's 10K—Jessica Lee Gumabon (0:34:19), Jeffrey Ramos (0:34:20), Jeffrey Ramos (0:34:20); Men's 5K—Adrian Jesus Ramos Gumabon (0:34:19), Jeffrey Ramos (0:34:20), Jeffrey Ramos (0:34:20); Women's 5K—Jessica Lee Gumabon (0:34:19), Jeffrey Ramos (0:34:20), Jeffrey Ramos (0:34:20))

RUNNERS in the 5K race of the NatGeo Earth Day Run relive out of the starting line at the Global City. The event drew 18,300 runners.

Still another Kenyan tops Kapuso 10K

ALL BUT one top prize went to local runners in the All-Star Kapuso Run yesterday at the SM Mall of Asia grounds in Pasay City.

Bonn's Elrod Kering, 25, ruled the unsnapped 10K race with a time of 31 minutes and 37 seconds while Mercedita Pendevera, 28, clocked 39:05 to top the circuit side.

Arjel de Asis was the male 5K winner in 16 minutes and 58 seconds and 19-year-old Jazmeen Lacanilao entered the women's crown in 20:15.

Topping the 3K race were Elkin Jose Quinto with a time of 09:39 and 15-year-old Michelle de Vera in 12:36.

Five-year-olds Maureen Uesugalde and Allyza Cyril were the youngest participants, the oldest male runner was 85-year-old Pedro Bobarnino and Sofia Manahan the oldest female at 64.

The event, which drew about 3,000 runners led by actor Richard Gutierrez and other Kapuso stars, was a GMA Network fund-raising event aimed at promoting environmental awareness and preservation.

Race proceeds will go to the Kapuso Foundation's Kapuso para sa Kalikasan projects, including construction of water distribution and sanitation facilities, as well as tree planting in public schools across the country.

GMA 7 Network stars Iza Calzado and Richard Gutierrez at the awards ceremonies

Orteza siblings dominate Lee Memorial tennis

By Marc Anthony Reyes

SIFFRED ISABELLA, Patricia and Patricia Jay Orteza came through with impressive title victories in their respective divisions in the recent Henry Lee Memorial age group tennis tournament at the Manila Polo Club outdoor courts.

Patricia—the 2009 Philippine Columbian Association Mandaluyong, 6-3, 7-7, 6-2, to ride the 14-under category.

(See also results in the 16-under Boys' and Girls' division)

The Ortezas, whose mother Mary is a niece of national tennis chief Susy Cheng, Olympian and former national diplomat Eduardo Ano and Fellow, are members of De La Salle-Zobel team, the reigning Inter-School Tennis Association champ.

Pinoy Pride 5 vs M-M showdown

ROGER SUTHERLAND planned the rematch at the St. La Salle Gymnasium in Bacolod City that ushered the boxing duel "Pinoy Pride 5" last Saturday (April 9, 2011).

That's a truly promising response to the efforts of ALA Promotions' patron Tony Aldeguer and his son-in-law, who has taken over as chief promotional producer, to bring big-time boxing (big city, that is in terms of the bigger if produced) to Bacolodnons.

Despite the stifling afternoon heat, the fans sat through it all as the featured Filipino pugilistic opponents.

There was no other boxing match that the fans would wait for based on the fight records of Ana Jose, the unbeaten Filipino to win in each impressive fashion or by displaying the skill and punishing power that showed their class.

Jose has only to see how sporting kids "El Terrible" Morales—who was considered a last-minute but thought the fight of his Bacolod-engagement and proved young Jonathan Manalo of Mandaluyong all he could handle—no matter that possible take when designated fighters as "bums" could be all wrong.

In fact, there were many ringsiders who felt that Morales had done enough to take against the fighter who almost knocked out WBA Junior welterweight king Amir Khan.

MK-5, which is making a bid to challenge the pro-eminent position of MK-4 (MK to

Ronnie Nathanielsz

sports, specifically boxing, took a gamble in getting the Haddaoui-Morales title fight and it clearly marketed for them.

While we understand the rivalry that drives networks to compete against each other, we sincerely believe that the ultimate goal must be to enhance fight fans. This could be done only when we see wonderful fights—through a telecast of foreign fights after any local fight card is aired. This way, boxing fans will enjoy the best of both worlds and sponsors will clearly maximize maximum exposure.

Perhaps ABC 5 realized that on the fight strategy as was the network's capability to attract an audience while going up against the most established MK-4 (MK) network.

Whatever the results, we would wish to see no unwritten understanding between promoters to give fight fans a chance to enjoy all the fights possible.

It's don't have to be a genius to realize that Filipino fight fans would naturally gravitate to

RAGBY ICON Former Wasps rugby captain Colin Charvis (third from left) is the special guest during the recent sponsors' luncheon for the Manila International Rugby Festival at the Marriott Hotel in Pasay City. The tournament, three 22-international sevens teams at the Nomad Sports Club in Paranaque. With Charvis are Roberto Hatamo (right), country manager of event sponsor Etihad Airways, and staff Alberto Olegue and Gavin Dowging.

Badillo-Garcia big at Southwoods

MARC BADILLO and guest partner Gianne Garcia romped in spot of 62s to post 134 and capture the two-divot team championship in the Manila Southwoods Invitational in Carmona, Cavite, recently.

Badillo, the Philippine Golf Tour rookie, and Gianne fired the team gross crown with 143 on rounds of 77-66 (Legends and 70-66 the Nicklaus-laden Masters layout.

Siblings Richard Bradell and Patty Bradell combined for 82 and 80 for a 162 five-stroked Blue Valley and guest Chen Sun, who also shot identical 82 and 80, to the second slot in bagging the Bronze Crown.

Ricardo Agpar and partner Kenny de Dios took the Division 3 silver with a 162 (82-80), beating Sonny Barrera and Rudy Ruiz (162-82-80).

Another Division 3 gold went to Jong-Hak Kwon and Jeong-Ho Lee (162-80-82), ahead of Felix Cortez and Ronald Abion (162, 84-82).

Leonardo Hernandez and Jovito Fajardo jumped the 18-72-and-rated Division 5 spot above Bernardo Hernandez and Ric Laguerta (78-75, on scorecard).

Tony Villareal and Oscar Palmos put away the Sponsor's division trophy.

SPORTS

Masterpiece at Augusta

McIlroy surges to 4-stroke cushion

RORY McIlroy continues to move closer to donning a green jacket. AFP

AUGUSTA, GEORGIA—Rory McIlroy will take a four-stroke lead in the final round of the Masters after shooting a 2-under 70 on a sweltering Saturday at Augusta National.

The 21-year-old from Northern Ireland struggled through the front nine, but some of the game's best players made much of a move. When he rolled in a 22-foot birdie at the 17th, he suddenly had plenty of breathing room going into Sunday.

No one at 11-under 204 through three rounds, having held at least a share of the lead in all three rounds. He'll have his biggest advantage yet going into Sunday's final pairing, which features Australian Jason Day and 92 Class failed to join on the premiere.

"It feels good. It's a great position to be in," McIlroy said. "I stayed really patient out there today. It's really happy with the way I stuck to my game plan and it paid off."

Woods was dropping explosives and screaming at himself. He followed up a brilliant tee-to-Sunday with a choppy 74, staggering to the scoring shed after missing a 5-footer to save par at the final hole.

While closer were some solid shots with his big clubs—he had to crouch down at No. 17 after driving under a pine tree—his biggest woes came on the greens he knows to well.

Afterall the longest window streaked his career, he went from three shots behind at the start of the round to a daunting seven-shot deficit heading to Sunday.

"I'm going to have to put [together] a great score and see what happens," he said. "I hit the ball well all day. That wasn't the problem. I just made nothing. Take away the two three-putt shots, a couple of un-forced errors and it should have been a pretty good round."

Only another of golf's young stars, glimpsed in the front nine with Woods. The 20-year-old Aussie briefly surged to the top of the board with three birdies on the first five holes.

But he cooled off as the temperatures soared, finishing into the mid-80s with his sunday first made it feel like a summer day.

They finished with a 72 and is to be going at 209 with Angel Cabrera, Chad Schwartzel and Choi Choi, who played with Woods in the next-to-last group, struggled with the pressure and settled for a 75.

Cabrera, a two-time major champion who hadn't done much since his 2009 Masters triumph, opened in a 67. Schwartzel shot 68, Adam Scott, Jin Choi Sub and Bubba Watson also showed their way into some semblance of contention.

Scott was on 209 after a 67. Yan Poh shot 66, leaving him another stroke back, while Choi, who lost to a playoff at last year's PGA Championship and got off to a rough start at the Masters, was at 210 after a 67. AP

INVITATION TO BID

HEAVY punching from Marcos Maidana (left) helps the Argentine capture the WBA interim junior welterweight championship and leave Erik Morales with a swollen shut eye (inset). AP

Maidana barely decisions Morales for interim lightweight crown

LAS VEGAS—Marcos Maidana of Argentina outpunched Mexican foe three-world champion Erik Morales on Saturday night to win the vacant WBA interim super lightweight title.

Two judges scored the bout 116-112 for Maidana (20-2) and the other had it scored 114.

"This was my toughest fight yet," Maidana said. "But I knew it would be difficult as I trained hard and was prepared."

Blocking some real strong, dominating the ring, drawn Morales (51-7) in the first few rounds. He found in the second round Morales' right eye was swollen shut.

Morales, always enduring, appeared to be in pain throughout in the early rounds, but was able to rally in the middle rounds to keep things close. AP

Ty's ten treys trip T-Wolves

DENVER—Ty Lawson made his first 10 3-pointers Saturday and scored a career-high 37 points to lead the short-handed Denver Nuggets to a 120-106 win over the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Lawson, who was banged up from Denver's weight-and-middle loss at Oklahoma City one night before, didn't score until sinking a pair of free throws on the 6-minute mark of the second quarter.

He then hit 10 of 11 from beyond the arc, including six during a 9-minute stretch spanning halftime that turned a right game (91-59) into a laughter.

Manuel Bethune and Lance Hayward led the Timberwolves with 19 points each.

In San Antonio, Richard Jefferson scored 20 points as the Spurs hosted back the Utah Jazz, 111-103, and began sealing up with the No. 1 seed in the Western Conference secured.

OTHER NBA RESULTS: Bobcats 100, Grizzlies 95; Pistons 88, Hornets 78; Wizards 115, Pacers 102

Azkals soar high with Cebu Pacific

The country's national football team, popularly known as the Azkals, has penetrated Philippine mass consciousness to the point of a first. Climbing Final 8 status in the qualifiers of the Asian Football Confederation Challenge Cup and joins, they achieved a new height in Philippine sports. Today, the nation's new heroes continue to make greater heights as they travel to different locations and tournaments, now with an even pair of Cebu Pacific (CEB) three total to victory - Cebu Pacific.

Beyond determination

With their brave gameplan and steadfast determination during the recent games against Myanmar, Palestine and Bangladesh, the Azkals showed the world what Filipinos are capable of. Their history and homecoming will lead them to advance to the AFC Challenge Cup, as quarterfinalists, signaling the first time that Team Philippines will be part of an international football tournament in years.

The road to success is never easy fighting. We've been down a lot. We've been in every thing that we had and still ourselves that this was our time, and we need to go after that goal," said captain and goalie Neil Etheridge.

Tickets for the competition's now sold more to cross through the finals, their performance against Asian powerhouse Iraq demonstrated their position as a strong contender in the region. In pursuit of even greater heights and goals for the country, the Filipino footballers have been working hard to be ready for future tournaments with new coach Hans Michael Weiss. Next on their list: World Cup qualifying matches and the AFC Challenge Cup tournament proper.

Flying high with Cebu Pacific

There is a big part of football that's tournaments taking them all over the globe and around the Philippines, the Azkals continue to consider their horizons with every country they.

"It's great to have Cebu pacific on board with the Azkals. It's no secret that companies like them believe in us, and it's what football needs right now. What we have accomplished together is just a stepping stone for bigger things to come," said Weiss.

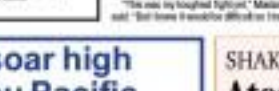
David Youngblutand, one of the team's midfielders, added, "There is what's great about football. We've created a lot of [our] time because of football and we get to meet new people, see new places, and experience new cultures.

"I'm looking forward to more occasions like this with Cebu Pacific. My brother Phil and I started the Youngblutand Foundation and we've got to use different places and meet up with public schools and local government units to spread the message about football," said Youngblutand.

Cool with the stories in supporting the country's national football team, Cebu Pacific, the country's largest flag carrier, provided the team with plane tickets to help them look to more world-class shows. With the largest network of domestic and ASEAN destinations served, Cebu Pacific ensures that the players are able to remain home to their provinces and fly to future football competitions and training camps in the country.

"The passenger of Filipinos is normal is great," shared Coach Weiss. "I hope that we are able to live up to the occasions and fulfill the hopes of the Filipino community."

With outpouring support from existing organizations, followers, and an increasing number of football fans, the Azkals are set to make flight and bring greater pride to the country - and Cebu Pacific will help them get there.



Lilli Pascual, Phil Youngblutand, Aljoun Ray Marcaraig, and midfielder Simon Greatwich are on to check flights schedule with Cebu Pacific.

SHAKEY'S V-LEAGUE

Ateneo scores thrilling victory

By Jasmine W. Payo

ATENEO TRIUMPH sustained to a seven-high 27 points to lift Ateneo to a five-set win over Lyceum, 23-19, 24-26, 17-25, 26-19, 15-6, yesterday in the Shakey's V-League.

Ellie Gangler, Thai import Kostiew Lilhavat and Dri Gervacio also stepped up as the Lady Eagles ruined the Group-A lead with their second victory as the FEBC Flying V Arena in San Juan.

"We lacked focus, but I'm glad the girls were resilient in the fourth and fifth set," said new coach Chero Intal-Hizon, Ateneo's former setter.

The Lady Pirates, who have a 2-1 net head, fell to a share of second with the Southwestern University at 1-1.

Gangler, University of St. La Salle, with Perp Ornedan leading the offense, teamed to a thought-set 20-19, 25-16, 25-17 triumph over Ateneo.

Ornedan, held to just nine in the Lady Stingers' Thursday loss to Adamson, regained her form with 16 kills to lead the Batch-based squad to its second win in three Group-B matches.

Bibbs scored on 21 attacks, the last coming on match point to capture her fourth game yet against the reverse Lady Pirates.

"We just train hard and apply everything we do in practice," said Bibbs, who joined Ateneo after starring in the DAAP juniors with the University of Santo Tomas high school.

The Lady Bulldogs, who fell to 1-2, had no player in double figures and also wilted in points on spikes (27-18) and service aces (2-12).

ATENEO'S Alyssa Valdez (left) smashes the Lyceum rivals.

Anton joins Castrol roster

ANTON

THE CHAMPION'S reigning Mikkeloh champion Carlos Anton is the latest addition to the Castrol Driver roster.

The additional support should boost defen- mode when he defends his title next month in San Fernando, La Union. The series moves Subic north to Davao, Iloilo City and Cagayan De Oro.

"I thank (Castrol) for supporting the 10-speed event," Anton said of Castrol.

Anton will continue to use the Mark Young-prepared Honda CRX that has brought him his first 4 titles in Mikkeloh racing. Joining Anton in the Yokohama Castrol Eventure team is 2010 Division 2 champion Frankie Domingo, 2009 division 3 champion Dennis Acuzar, and Division 4 host runner Alfie Concepcion.

"The best drivers in the world use Castrol Oil in their racers so we stand to support the top racing drivers in the country also," said Gil Morales, Castrol's area business manager for North Luzon.

Editor Raul O. Morales • Assistant Editor Cecile S. Mariano

BUSINESS

Intramuros redevelopment eyed for PPP

Project to showcase country's cultural heritage

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE DEPARTMENT OF Tourism plans to offer for potential public-private partnership (PPP) a master-planned redevelopment of the five-hectare "Walled City" of Intramuros, the oldest district in the Philippine capital of Manila built during the Spanish colonial period.

In a roundtable forum with the tourism business sta[ff], Tourism Secretary Alberto Lim said Intramuros would be spruced up to better showcase the country's cultural heritage. The DOT also plans to cultivate retail businesses over the next two years and to redevelop some areas into a mixed-use commercial and residential hub over a five-year period using financial muscle from

INTRAMUROS B4

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

April 8, 2011

43.000

STOCK MARKET

April 8, 2011

21.58

Profit-taking seen

LOCAL STOCKS are seen struggling to keep the main index above the 4,200 support this week as some investors may be tempted to pocket gains from the run-up in the last two weeks.

Rudd Santiago leading senators along, there is some possibility that monopolies will continue to climb. Last week, the main index surged 2.1 percent to finish at 4,201.01 on buoyant investor sentiment.

Sagittarius Inc. president Joseph Pizarro said the 4,200 level would be a crucial barrier to watch this week. He said some profit-taking might arise this week but he also noted that foreign buying was gaining momentum [illegible] with the regional boost of improved risk appetite among investors.

If the 4,200 support would hold firm, Pizarro said the index—which has now wiped out losses incurred since the start of the year—could resume its uptrending.

Banco de Oro Unibank chief strategist Jonathan Ravales said last week's close represented a test of the 4,200 levels. "However, the index is currently trading at overbought levels that may prompt profit-taking activities to occur soon. Expect outflows toward 4,100 to 4,150 levels," Ravales said.

Jonathon Cabanay Jr., a trader at Accord Capital Equities, said the local market would try to ride on last week's momentum but selling might intensify the further the index moves [illegible] above the 4,200 line. Doris C. Dumlao

Japanese firms still keen on RP projects

By Amy R. Borra

JAPANESE FIRMS remained keen to pushing through with their investment plans in the Philippines despite the earthquake and tsunami that devastated their country last month, according to Energy Secretary Jose Rene D. Almendras.

Almendras cited a recent agreement that the Department of Energy struck with Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) only two weeks ago.

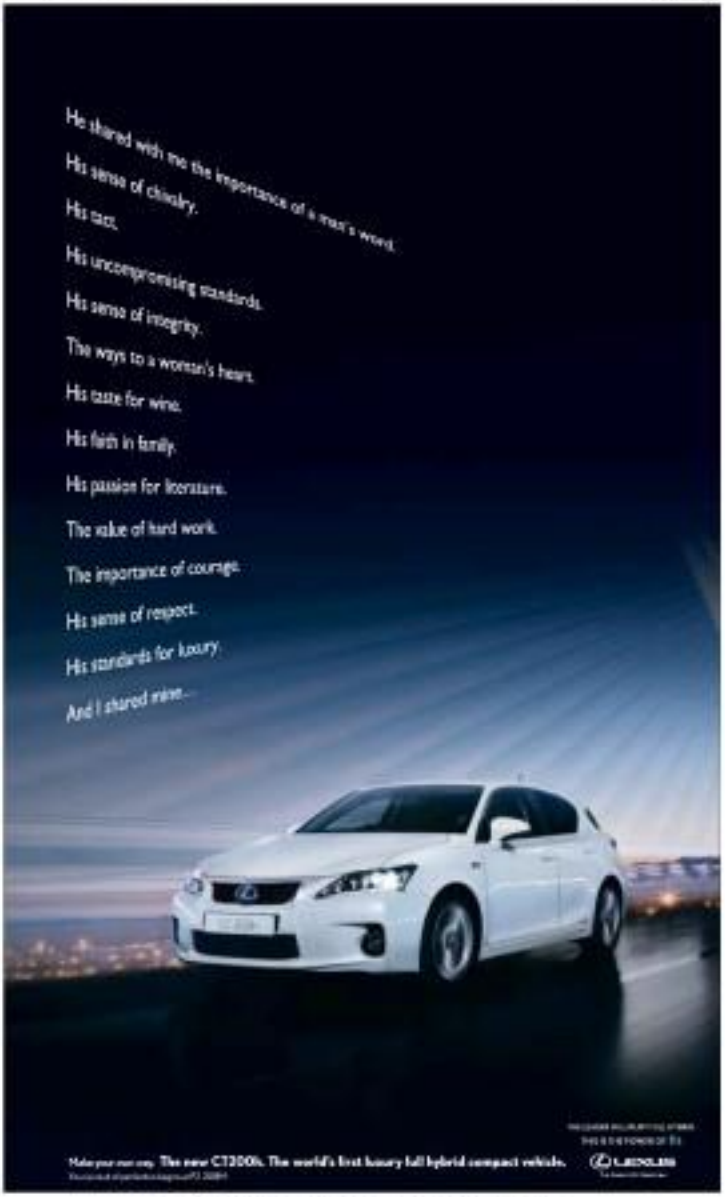
"I had to admire the Japanese that despite what's happening [in their country], Jica was still willing to push through with our deal. As for us the other Japanese companies are concerned, they are [still keen to pushing through with their projects]," he said.

Last month, Japan experienced a double whammy of a catastrophic with a magnitude 8.9 earthquake and a consequent devastating tsunami. The earthquake damaged a number of critical facilities, including Japan's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant complex. Japanese officials continued to struggle to contain the radiation from the nuclear facility.

Jica has promised to complete for the government a master plan for the development of the country's natural gas sector. This particular alternative fuel has been deemed to be among the more feasible alternatives that will allow the country to diversify its energy and transportation sources. Jica is expected to finish the master plan by September this year.

Almendras also noted that Marubeni Corp., one of the Japanese firms behind Team Energy, also insisted that they were "still okay" insofar as pushing through with the planned expansion of the 1,320-megawatt [illegible] 700-MW Pagbilao coal-fired facilities were concerned. The projects are expan-

JAPANESE B4



Japanese firms still keen on RP projects

...ed as government in... ...restoration of an early... ...at $2 billion.

...Team Energy, which is also backed by Tokyo Electric and Power Co. Chairman... ...confirm the...

...closed that it was targeting to expand the Sual facility by another 600 MW, and the Pagbilao, by as much as 400 MW (consisting of two new clean coal units) over the next four years.

Team Energy currently operates the Pagbilao power plant and the Sual coal-fired facility under build-operate-transfer schemes that will expire in 2035 and 2024, respectively.

However, there was one specific deal with Tepco that may not likely push through, according to Matsushita.

"The one thing we had was the possible joint venture with Tepco for [the establishment] of an energy services company or ESCO. So I guess that will have to be set aside," he noted.

An ESCO is a private business that engages in performance-based contracts with building owners to identify and implement energy-efficiency measures that will significantly reduce the building's energy consumption. One main feature of an ESCO deal is to implement energy efficiency projects at no upfront cost to the client.

Rainmaker's millions

Biz Buzz

By the staff

THERE IS little doubt who the so-called "rainmaker" is in this large foreign bank when it comes to enacting legislative underwriting deals for Philippine corporations raising funds from either debt or equity markets.

As when annual bonuses were distributed recently at the bank, enormous funds were cut-outs: just how much Mr. Rainmaker—the top dealer for Filipinos in the organization—made for the year, according to several sources, many people in the bank front-ranking officers to fellow entrepreneurs pocketed into his bank account.

But lo and behold, Mr. Rainmaker was ripped off and promptly joined out a log of everyone who had answered his bank accounts denials. Slightly pissed off, Mr. Rainmaker confronted each one in the list, interrogating them (and presenting "incontrovertible proof" provided by the data log) to those who were denying pocking into his funds). Some students worked to his own risk, some worked in the branch on the ground floor, and some were from other branches in Metro Manila (needless to say, he confounded them all, some quivering in fear, some hiding, some absenting themselves from work since word got out he was on his way to see them).

So was it worth all the effort on the part of the curious bankers, reputations ostensibly standing? Apparently so, according to our sources, several of whom described Mr. Rainmaker's bonus as "eye popping."

Boom L. Locsin

Bye 'Gaudy' lights

THE COASTAL streets of Manila's Roxas Boulevard will soon bid adieu to the row of flamboyant lamp posts dominating the bayside landscape at night. Tourism Secretary Alberto Lim said the lamps would be replaced by more economical lamp posts with simpler bulbs that consume less electricity and therefore entail lower maintenance cost.

The new lamp posts will have three triangular main lights and a large inverted pyramid-like attachment at the middle, which could be leased out to potential advertisers and thereby generate revenues. The new tourism chief just recently received the three-year multiple-choice, which he describes as less "gaudy," apart from being more complicated to maintain. Doris C. Bumbac

PBB Villaburto's rebuttal

LAWYER Nelly Favis-Villaburto, a member of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Monetary Board, wrote the BSP to refute the article entitled "BP's defective firing" published last April 4. Bianco Filipino was recently published by the BSP.

Villaburto said the decisions of the collegial body were not be unanimous. "...The Governor [Amando Tetangco Jr.] and the MB must respect a dissenting view of the director like myself who believes that the decision of the majority is illegal, irregular, anomalous [and is only done] administrative," she said.

As it, how those Filipino may have known how she had voted when BP was placed in receivership, she alleged that the new leading information may be high BSP officials who were pissed off whenever she objected or abstained their voting.

The truth is, we were among the BP case by the MB members, she said. One was on March 14, on the application for emergency loan, and another on March 17 when the proposal to close BP was deliberated upon. On the first occasion, she said that under central bank rules, there were only two requirements that the bank applying for emergency loan was not insolvent and that it has sufficient.

Whether the BSP followed the set-out-of-way required by the Supreme Court test is now under question, Villaburto said.

"It is ironic that today, the issues surrounding the BP case are already muddled and the real and main issue on management is now sidetracked," Villaburto said. She said she had indeed made telephone calls to Tetangco urging the latter to at least listen to the appeals of BP officials to no avail. "The behavior of the governor to my mind is very unconscionable considering that there is a very real emergency at hand involving a bank resulting from a massive run on campaign against BP. The national dailies were banning the news that BP declared a bank holiday. Nor was "BP did not declare a bank holiday," she said. Doris C. Bumbac

New BCDA chief

A YOUNG 'OP' and Harvard-educated technocrat may soon be named to become the new president/CEO of the Bases Conversion Development Authority, a government corporation that is of great interest to the business sector (particularly property developers and infrastructure builders) given its massive over former military properties.

The prospective new BCDA chief, according to a well-placed source, is 41 year-old lawyer Arnel Casanova, currently the executive director of the Philippine arm of the New York-based non-profit organization Asia Society, an influential organization that seeks to educate the world about Asia. It could simply be a homecoming for Casanova, who had worked at the BCDA for 12 years and had risen from the ranks to become the government corporation's general counsel and corporate secretary before he left for Asia Society. Doris C. Bumbac

Bye bye birdies

BIRD lovers in Metro Manila have cause for worry these days. The government has apparently turned an environmental compliance certificate for a project that could result in the "slow death" of a bird sanctuary right alongside the Coastal Road in Metro Manila. Indeed, the project is a "go."

A copy of the ECC dated March 24 and signed by lawyer Juan Miguel T. Cuna, OIC director of the environment Department's Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), said the project "shall cover the reclamation and development of about 635.14 hectares located along the coasts of Parañaque and Las Piñas."

A letter attached to the ECC does say that the proponent is expected to make sure that "environmental considerations shall be integrated in all phases and aspects of the project." The EMB also said it will be monitoring the project periodically to ensure compliance with the conditions cited in the ECC.

However, a source said that while the reclamation and construction work were supposed to be in an area behind the last causeway, the development would disrupt the water flow from Manila Bay and expose the sanctuary's inhabitants to greater risk of pollution.

If the worst comes out the birds, what will be left to love in the road? Jika Dichoso

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Highway link from SLEx to Quezon seen to cost P10B

Toll company awaiting gov't approval for project

By Paolo G. Montecillo

A MRV highway that will shorten the travel time from Metro Manila to the heart of Quezon province and other areas in Southern Luzon might be built within the next five years, according to South Luzon Tollways Corp. (SLTC).

The new road, dubbed the Toll Road project 4 (TR4), will be part of the South Luzon Expressway (SLEx), span 54 kilometers and cost between P6.5 billion and P10 billion in funds, a recently concluded study by SLTC said.

"Our next project will be the TR4. We are just waiting for the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) to approved our proposed alignment of the road," said Jesus David, president of SLTC, operator of the SLEx.

He said once the road has been completed, motorists would have to exit SLEx in the Tomas Sumulong, to get on to TR4, which would lead all the way to Lucena City, Quezon.

Once the alignment has been approved, SLTC and eight of way acquisition by the Department of Public Works and Highways for the land where the new highway would pass through could begin.

Historically, the slow process of acquiring right-of-way which is done and paid for by the government, has resulted in long delays for big-ticket infrastructure projects. But David said he was confident that it would take just a year for all the land needed for TR4 to be acquired.

David said the government needed to create a special court specifically for the resolution of right of way issues such as land valuation for the speedy implementation of projects under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) program.

"So what we have experienced, right of way acquisition can take several years," David said. The land acquisition for one of SLTC's recently completed projects—a link between SLEx and the Southern Tagalog arterial road (Star) will took more than two and a half years, just for 7.3 kilometers.

"But I hope that with the political will of the new government, this can be done faster," he added.

He said he also expected the local government units of the areas that TR4 would pass through to welcome the new road, which would help in developing the economies of their respective provinces.

"The road will really help in the progress of these areas," he said, noting that this would create a more direct link between Quezon province and Metro Manila.

David said SLTC's current highway, the SLEx, has helped companies and vehicle manufacturers located in industrial areas of Laguna and Cavite to move offs, greatly transport their products to seaports in Manila or to shipped for export.

Intramuros redux'd yet

From page B1

the prime sector.

Lim said a feasibility study would be undertaken soon and the government might bid out the Intramuros redevelopment project under the PPP framework by early 2012.

The DOT is making already moves to draw in a private sector participation for this major project given the huge interest among the country's biggest property developers like Ayala Land, SM of tycoon Henry Sy. Al Summit of the Philippines and Alliance Global of tycoon Andrew Tan on tourism-oriented real estate.

As part of the redevelopment, Lim and Intramuros' Mars. Jesusa Poll, said in a shopping mall-cum-hotel complex during the Spanish occupation would be built using a P250-million grant from Japan's official development assistance and Japan International Cooperation Agency. This month of will be also the month of Pasig river north mall in Manila.

She will make it look like what they have in store from in Clarke Quay," Lim said, referring to Singapore which now boasts a bustling pedestrian retail row.

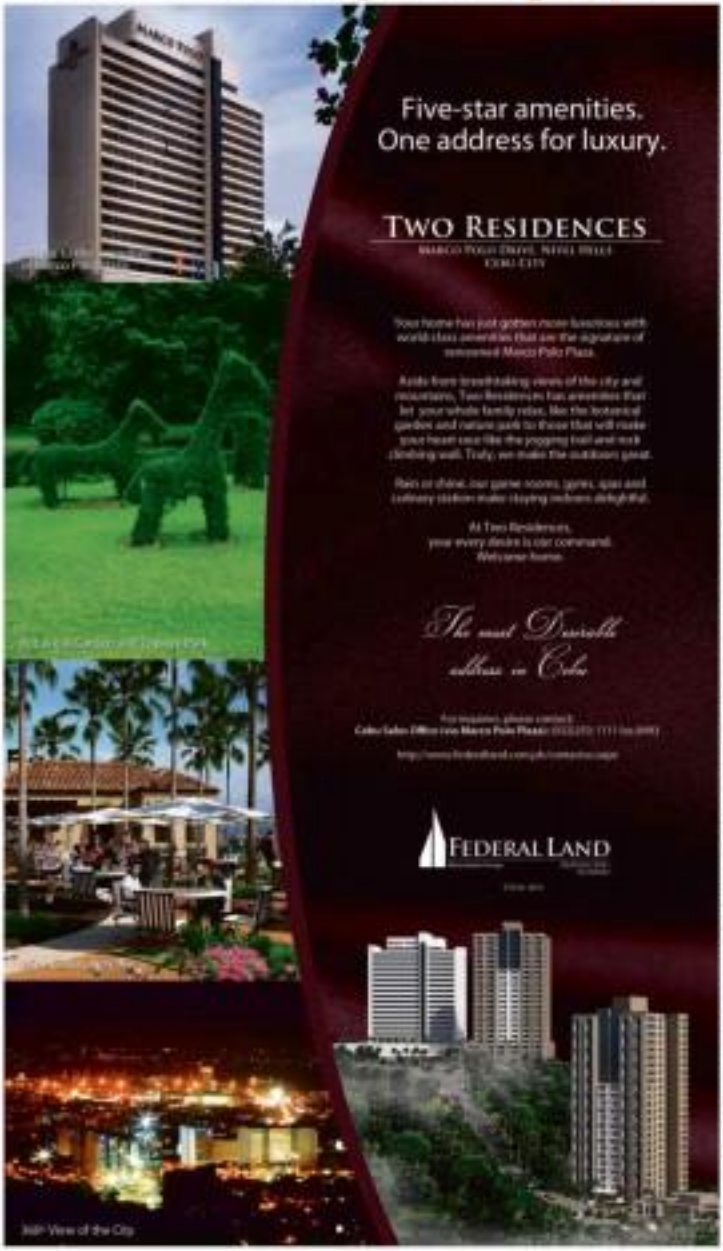
The redevelopment draft also include the rebuilding of the San Ignacio Church, which is currently in ruins. It will become the Museum of Intramuros, where we will put the Ecclesiastical art collected by Bishop Leyo Elevation of the Diocesan collected back.

The relics is set produced during an extensive Middle Ages in which the influence of the Church was practically paramount.

Swimming pool area

Lobby area

Federal Land launches P 5-Billion high-rise project in Cebu



"Two Residences' and 'Two Residences' to offer 5-star condo living experience like no other

The prestige behind this Marco Polo Hotel brand can never be replicated in a high rise dwelling opened that's set to rise on a prime location which will exude the supreme 5-star luxury image.

Real estate giant Federal Land Inc., which operates Marco Polo Hotel Cebu in the Philippines, is taking the property scene a notch higher with the launch of a P 5-billion high-rise project called 'The Residences.' Touted in a charming setting on Nivel Hills in Cebu, The Residences is the first of the five-tower residential project which is located just inside the popular Marco Polo Plaza.

Once completed, this new luxury address in Cebu will offer international class facilities and the personal services and warmth of the Marco Polo brand - a perfect living environment for expats, business travelers, upwardly mobile families as well as weekend leisure residents looking for the most exquisite vacation experience that simply never ends.

As another innovation, future residents of this upscale project would also be given the option of customizing the different hotel services that they can avail of with the purchase of every unit. Concierge service, food and beverage outlets, private room service, business center service, laundry service, apartment cleaning, servicing and maintenance, priority access to swimming pool, gym, and the wellness zone. This means that the new condos unit owners in the privilege of living in a five-star hotel setting along with its deluxe service - a clear advantage that would distinguish the project from other emerging mid-rise developments in Cebu City.

Dubbed as the first 'luxury branded real estate', 'The Residences' will appeal to an upscale segment looking for the finer things in life, including first-class living standards as well as pampering services and special privileges to make their daily stay a true five-star experience. The market segment is well-traveled and enjoys an affluent lifestyle, and thus expects nothing but the best in every comfortable living environment.

Residents are guaranteed to enjoy the boundless advantages that the project offers as Cebu's most desirable address. Aside from the luxury hotel lifestyle, they will appreciate their strategic location, being proximate to places of interest and other landmarks including shopping malls, restaurants, schools and universities, country clubs and golf courses. It is just minutes away from the Ayala IT Park, Cebu Business Park, and Mactan International Airport. The development is located along Cebu Veterans Drive, Nivel Hills, Barangay Apas, in the heart of Metro Cebu.

As a quality-crafted project by Federal Land, unit buyers can expect the best in terms of structural stability, efficient planning, architecture and design, plus finishes and building features. Foreign Interior Designer, The Settles Group, LLC (Chicago) recently designed the common areas. Maximized natural ventilation will be installed in these areas, along with 24-hour security and building maintenance. Around the amenity floor, lush garden units will be available, coupled with an elegantly designed ground floor lobby and drop-off point.

The project amenities are likewise first-rate. As a virtual extension of the hotel, the common amenities will convey the same luxury hotel ambiance around the development. This will entail unit owners the ultimate in exclusivity as they enjoy free access to several amenities such as Adult and Children's pool, Fitness Gym, Game room, Spa Cabana, Outdoor Children's Play Area, Multi-purpose Function Room, Landscaped garden area, and Viewdeck garden deck at the podium level.

Situated at the best locations and level, the property promises access to the stunning views of Cebu and the Mactan Channel. These views will be best seen right from the windows and balconies of their rooms - a privilege to be enjoyed by dwelling in a high-rise home.

Coming home at The Residences will be all about those privileges, and more, as they become an exclusive address that they can dream.

The Residences is a project of Federal Land, Inc., the property development arm of the Aboitiz Group. It is one of Federal Land's latest additions to its growing portfolio of high-rise luxury residences which are The Grand Manor, Bay Garden and Bay Garden Club and Residences, its current condo includes the Provencia Mansion in Riverside, The Crescent Place in Makati and Pan Cayetan Towers in Quezon City.

For inquiries regarding The Residences, please contact (02) 886-8188 loc. 8400 if within Metro Manila, (032) 302 1111 loc. 8400 if within Cebu or log on to www.federalland.com.ph/two-residences.aspx

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BUSINESS

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Jan-Feb debt payment up 9.4%

Some P184.3B in principal, P57.99B in interest settled

By Bernadette W. Damiles

THE GOVERNMENT spent P242.31 billion in the first two months of 2011 for debt servicing, up by 9.4 percent from the P221.59 billion paid in the same period last year, according to the Bureau of the Treasury.

The increase was posted despite Malacañang's continuing efforts to ease the level of debts in relation to gross domestic product, which went to 55.4 percent as of end-2010.

From January to February, the government settled P184.32 billion in principal, including P119.82 billion in domestic debt and P64.51 billion in foreign loans.

Total principal payment in January and February was 20.2 percent higher than the P153.33 billion posted a year ago.

Also, the government spent a total of P57.99 billion in interest charges, covering P29.73 billion on domestic debt and P28.25 billion in foreign borrowings.

Total interest payment for the two months was 16 percent lower than the P69 billion recorded in the same period of 2010.

Latest data from the Bureau of the Treasury showed that the total outstanding debt stood at P4.716 trillion as of December 2010, down by about P1 billion from the November level due to the net repayment of foreign obligations and stronger peso.

With the population estimated to have reached about 94.01 million in 2010, the total outstanding debt would mean that each citizen has a share of P50,148.

Of the total outstanding debt, 57.6 percent or P2.7 trillion was borrowed from domestic lenders. About 42.4 percent or P2 trillion of the total was booked in foreign currencies such as the US dollar, euro and yen.

Based on the Aquino administration's proposed medium-term debt path, the debt-to-GDP ratio would remain at 55 percent in 2012, but would steadily go down in the succeeding years to reach 47 percent in 2016.

PLDT eyes cloud computing market

By Paolo G. Montecillo

PHILIPPINE LONG Distance Telephone Co., the country's biggest telecommunications firm, is now setting its sights on the growing local market for hosted or "cloud" computing services for corporate clients.

In a statement, PLDT said it had partnered with global software giant Microsoft and Asia's leading information technology solutions company Datamark, a subsidiary of Dimension Data of Japan's NTT Group.

Cloud computing is network-based computing, where software, data storage and other resources are provided over a shared network. It allows users to access their company's business applications remotely through the cloud.

PLDT and Microsoft recently signed a Service Provider Licensing Agreement, allowing PLDT to deliver cloud-based Microsoft

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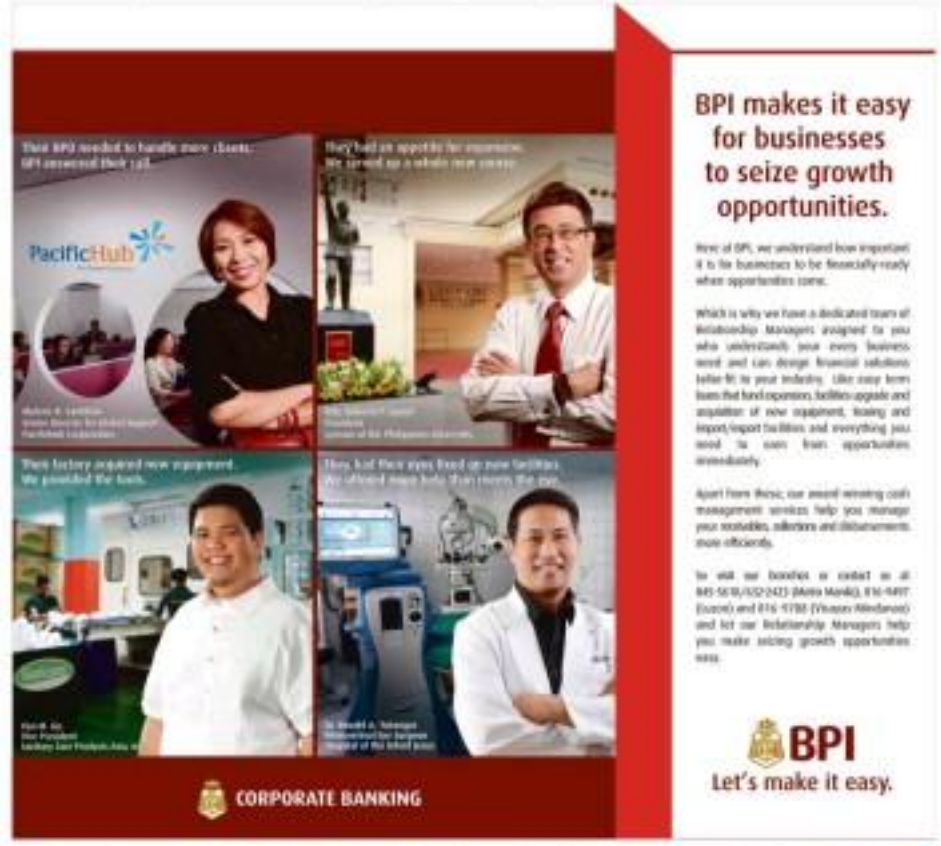

Banks' bad debts down

Credit card spending in PH rising

CREDIT CARD spending by Filipinos rose in 2010 compared to a year ago, as the improved economic climate boosted the appetite of consumers to shop more.

Monetary officials said the increase in purchases using plastic money partly aided in the rise in consumption, which helped the economy record faster growth last year after a slowdown in the previous year.

According to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, credit card transactions of universal, commercial and both banks amounted to P1.43 billion as of the end of last year, up by about 5 percent from P136.6 billion in the previous year.

Of the credit card receivables in 2010, 12.6 percent are non-performing, which means they have remained unpaid for at least 30 days after falling due. This is much higher than the non-performing loans ratio for corporate borrowers of below 3 percent.

The BSP however, said the faster delinquency ratio for credit cards was better than the 12.7 percent the previous year.

Credit card spending continued to rise despite complaints over the high interest rates charged by banks and credit card companies.

Calls for the lowering of interest rates on credit card spending had prompted the likes of Senator Gregorio Honasan to file a bill to put a ceiling on those rates. One proposal limits the rate to 1 percent a month or 12 percent a year.

At present, credit card companies charge as high as 3.5 percent a month on credit card spending.

Consumer groups say the interest rates charged by banks are too much.

Banks, however, are opposing the bills that seek to put a cap on interest rates on credit card spending.

Michelle V. Rivera

Loans extended hit P2.79T

By Michelle V. Rivera

UNIVERSAL AND commercial banks (minus EastWest Bank and Banco de Oro Unibank) ended February with a total loan portfolio of P2.79 trillion, up 0.6 percent from the P2.77-trillion level recorded in January.

The share of bad debts to the outstanding loans extended by banks fell to 2.93 percent as of end-February, lower than the 3.18 percent registered in the same period last year.

"This is the 29th consecutive month that the NPL ratio has been below 4 percent," the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said in a statement.

Loans are considered bad debts or nonperforming when they remain unpaid at least 30 days after the due dates.

A single-digit NPL ratio is considered tolerable, and a ratio below 4 percent is deemed by regulators "very comfortable."

The decline in the banks' exposure to bad debts was achieved despite the rise in total loans they extended during the period.

The total loans extended by universal and commercial banks rose by 8 percent to P2.79 trillion as of end-February from P2.58 trillion in the same period last year.

The capital adequacy ratio (CAR) of banks fell by 0.6 percent to P1.79 billion from P11.28 billion.

Banks are required to set aside capital for potential credit losses so that they will remain liquid even when they are not able to collect loan payments.

The capital allocated by banks as loan-loss reserves as of February amounted to P98 billion, resulting in an NPL coverage ratio—the ratio of reserves to bad debts—of 129 percent, up from 112 percent a year ago.

In the meantime, properties acquired by banks as a result of loan defaults reached P128.35 billion as of end-February falling from P132.99 billion a year ago.

These acquired properties, plus the bad debts, amount to total non-performing assets of P396 billion, down from the previous year's P411 billion.

New Tanduay CBA OKd

THE MANAGEMENT and union officers of Tanduay Distillers, Inc. (Unique Plant) agreed last week to renew their Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) for 2011 to 2014, reflecting the harmony of industrial peace at the company's premier and oldest liquor bottling plant in Manila.

The month-long CBA negotiations started on March 1, 2011 and ended after seven meetings on March 29, 2011, when both parties agreed on the CBA's revised economic provisions.

The new CBA provided modest improvements in economic benefits while retaining all collective bargaining provisions of past agreements.

The Tanduay management, in a statement, cited the new CBA as a manifestation of the company's concern for its workforce under the harsh business environment.

"The CBA was outstanding in terms of economic and non-economic benefits," said union president Bel Aguilow.

It took the union and management only a month to agree on the terms of the new CBA.

"It is worthwhile to note that the talks were held under an atmosphere of respect and candidness between the union and management," Aguilow said.

2010 audit findings on listed firms out

By Doris C. Dumlao

ONE OUT of three trading participants at the Philippine Stock Exchange was found fully compliant with the requirements of the country's securities regulation law during the 2010 audit.

Based on a memorandum from the PSE's market regulation division dated April 6, 29 out of 81 brokerage houses audited by the unit breezed through the requirements of the Securities Regulation Code (SRC) while most had some minor shortcomings.

The trading participants that were "fully compliant" with the Securities Regulation Code based on the market regulator's audit were: AB Capital Securities, Armstrong Securities, ATR-Kim Eng Securities, Benjamin Co Ca & Co., CitisecOnline.Com, DBS Onasis Securities (RBC Philippines), DW Capital, E.Zobel Chinco Securities, Eagle Equities, Evergreen Stock Brokerage & Securities, First Metropolitan Capital Securities, First Orient Securities, G.D. Tan & Co., JP Morgan Securities Philippines, JSG Securities, Macquarie Securities (Philippines), Mercantile Securities, Nieves Sanchez, PCIC Securities, PNB Securities, Philstocks Securities Inc., RCBC Trust & Co., Strategic Securities, Tansengco & Co., UBS Securities Philippines, UOB-Kay Hian Securities, UPCC Securities Corp., Value Quest Securities and Wealth Securities & Stock Brokerage.

In the meantime, value never penalized for the late filing of their 2010 audited financial statements and one for late submission of its monthly risk-based capital adequacy (RCBA) report.

Others had been given a written reprimand for failing to attain requirements such as inadequate system and evidence, disaster recovery plan, a computerized and effective accounting system, monthly submission of account trade-for clients, integrity in reported account balances and proper reconciliation of brokerage client reports.

None of the violations were related to the securities borrowing and lending rules, reserve bank agreement, daily SCBA computation, monthly securities count, trading margins, appointment of at least two independent directors and dissemination of anti-money laundering regulations.

The PSE is required by the SRC to publish the audit findings and impose sanctions on trading participants as soon as its market integrity board affirms them or after the appeal period lapsed.

Eastern Subic station gets SBMA nod

By Amy R. Borja

INDEPENDENT PLAYER Eastern Petroleum Corp. expects to finally begin the operations of its P54-mil fuel importation in Subic by June this year, following the resolution of its conflict with oil major Petron Corp. and the issuance of the approval by concerned authorities.

Eastern Petroleum chair Fernando Montinola told reporters that after about a year of delay the company was finally granted all the necessary permits by the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority. This will pave the way for the completion of the construction of the biggest retail station within the Subic Freeport.

According to Montinola, Eastern Petroleum initially encountered resistance from its immediate neighbor, Petron Corp.

SBMA eventually released the permits after Petron withdrew its opposition to Eastern Petroleum's project.

The 3,000 sq.m. Subic megastation is one of the three megastations that are scheduled to open this year. The two others will be put up on Central Road, Cubi and Canacao, Isabela. An Eastern Petroleum megastation was opened in December last year along Airport Road in General Santos City.

Investors keen on PH housing market, REITs

By Dianne L. Lucas

THE PROSPECTS of the real estate sector in the Asia-Pacific region remain bright despite the steady stream of demand from investors—be both physical assets and shares of property developers—that have kept prices high to worst months.

This rosy outlook includes the Philippines, where the backlog in the housing sector and the possible introduction of real estate investment trusts (REITs) make the market attractive to foreign investors, said a fund manager who specializes in real estate investments.

In particular, Pioneer Capital founder Brett Gordon singled out the affordable housing market as being attractive to investors, along with "pre-IPO opportunities" for growing private developers who have yet to list their shares on the Philippine Stock Exchange.

"The implementation of the REIT law in the Philippines is also going to be very interesting," said Gordon during a recent conference for Asia-Pacific journalists sponsored by Swiss investment bank UBS.

REITs are publicly-listed vehicles formed for the purpose of investing in income-generating real estate assets like residential and commercial developments. This is particularly attractive as an investment vehicle for foreign funds, which are prevented by the Constitution from directly owning real estate investments because "the demographics are to die for," referring to the young population which growing disposable incomes and affordable mortgage rates offered by banks, as well as the high margins earned by developers.

According to data from Ayala Land, the Philippines has 30 real estate companies on its investment radar screen with a combined market capitalization of $16 billion, compared to the total of 400 real estate firms with a $200 billion market capitalization for the entire "emerging Asia" zone.

In the Philippines, Gordon cited the performance of Ayala Land Inc. due to the earnings prospects generated by its housing projects and its flagship Global City project.

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PLDT eyes

From page B1

software services in the country. Under the agreement, Dot-network will provide the necessary infrastructure and support for the project.

"This partnership allows us to serve our customers better as this provides best-of-class and high quality services and solutions that are available today," said PLDT senior vice president Eric R. Alberto.

Through PLDT Mitsubishi business applications are made even more accessible for local business use. Companies will be given the space to implement the cloud-based version of the Microsoft applications within their businesses in a full or partially-private managed scheme, or on a fully-hosted cloud-delivered model.

"Dotnetcraft will ensure a best-of-breed cloud infrastructure and provide expert support for our clients," the company said.

The applications will be made available through a monthly subscription arrangement instead of the traditional licensing model which entails higher investments.

With such a set-up, local businesses are provided with a cost-efficient solution without having to worry about the underlying infrastructure and maintaining costly upgrades support.

"Our collaboration with these two companies is the next big step into really building up the application portfolio of our existing cloud computing brand, PLDT SuperServe," said PLDT vice president and head of corporate business group Joey Hernandez.

Microsoft Asia Pacific vice president Tiyanjo Ishiwata said, "The true separation can really help build the market, and even create a new market and grow value for our customers."

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"Tech Works for Bacoor City Mayor"

High tech text messaging works for Bacoor Mayor Strike Revilla

Mayor Strike Revilla is making good use of Filipinos' love for cellphone technology in the hometown of Bacoor, Cavite. Using SMART Network, the office of the mayor is able to send announcements, updates on government projects, greetings, and advisories, while text messaging.

Textware allows monitored instant information dissemination by giving directly to our constituents through SMS technology," says Mayor Revilla.

Before switching to Textware, the manual sending of text blast using a GSM modem was very time-consuming and tedious. Today the office of the mayor uses Textware in which out to 10,000 text blast subscribers. Textware is especially useful for emergency broadcast announcements and time-critical messages.

With this SMS-based solution, their office is able to cut costs on expensive and bulky personal hardware. The Mayor's Command can also send out messages to big groups or target audiences even while on-the-go.

Textware offers organizations opportunity to send out regular or scheduled announcements, facilitates information exchange, feedback and content management. Time-sensitive and service-oriented companies can benefit from these features.

Rob Meisenberg, Enabling the user to send time-sensitive SMS notifications to a targeted, large number of recipients, does can also manage messages via folders as well as schedule message broadcasts.

Ted Dickes, Sending a message to a select group has never been easier. From mobile devices, key personnel or group members can send out a message to the entire group securely via mobile phone. They will receive the message sent by other members as well as reply and send a copy to the rest of the group.

Bacoor City Government is now powered by SMART NetCom. (From left to right) SMART Network Products Specialist Jayton Angeles, SMART GSO Marketing Head Dave Avila, PLDT SME Market Writer, Specialist Mary Grace Yap, Mayor of Bacoor, Cavite Strike Revilla, PLDT SME Market Channel Specialist Arnold Saron, SBS Engineer Marketing Head Ramonne Bravo, PLDT SME Market PR Specialist Joanne Javier and SBU Segment Marketing Specialist Jasper Dagdagan.

Ted Heidbrink, You can receive relevant information from external sources and immediately respond. It has telework-based response system, automated information release, and can be integrated with an existing database.

The Bacoor local government is very tech-driven. Aside from the NETCAST services, three CCTV surveillance cameras for security and traffic monitoring, barangay computerization projects and services for the barangay, online services, real time CCTV feeds to the website (www.bacoorcityworld), Wifi provides Wi-Fi connectivity for schools. All these projects are aimed primarily in achieving transparency and accountability as all local government projects, providing accessible citizens feedback from towards full e-governance.

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BUSINESS

2010 oil import bill surged 40% to $9.96B

Higher crude prices blamed for increase from $7.11B

By Amy R. Remo

HIGHER global market prices of crude oil raised the country's oil import bill by 40 percent to $9.96 billion in 2010, from the previous year's $7.11 billion, according to data from the Department of Energy.

The latest data from the DOE showed that the import cost of crude oil jumped last year by almost 60 percent to $5.36 billion, at an average cost of $79.686 per barrel.

Similarly, the cost of imported finished products rose by 22.8 percent to $4.597 billion, at an average cost of $84.046 per barrel.

Further boosting the country's oil import bill was the increase in the volume of imports last year to 121.4 million barrels—from the previous year's 108.4 million barrels—due to stronger demand for petroleum products.

Of the total oil import volume in 2010, crude accounted for 85.4 percent or 67.243 million barrels, while finished products, such as unleaded gasoline and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), accounted for 14.6 percent or 54.123 million barrels.

Middle East remained the country's major source of imported crude oil, supplying 80.6 percent (54.23 million barrels) of the total crude mix while Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei supplied a combined 11.6 percent (7.81 million barrels).

The remaining 7.7 percent came from Russia.

DOE data also showed that the country's total demand for petroleum products in 2010 increased by 4.2 percent to 113.6 million barrels, translating to an average daily requirement of 311,300 barrels.

In terms of supply, the country's total crude and petroleum product inventory as of end-2010 was 13.821 MB. This inventory is enough to meet the country's requirements for 44 days.

The level is 18.5 percent higher than the end-2009 figure of 13.666 million barrels.

Meanwhile, the country's total petroleum export earnings rose by 48.4 percent to $1.374 billion from only $791 million in 2009.

Export volume in 2010 totaled 15,529 million barrels.

Oil majors accounted for 66.1 percent of the total export mix, while the condensate exports of Shell Philippines Exploration B. V. (Spex) accounted for the remaining 19.9 percent.

The total petroleum export earnings brought net oil imports—or crude and petroleum product imports minus exports—to $8.76 billion in 2010, up 39 percent from the $6.316-billion posted in 2009.

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'Special' police needed to stop piracy, gov't says

By Abigail L. Ho

THE INTELLECTUAL Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHIL), the lead policy maker and regulator of intellectual property rights in the country, is seeking police powers to enforce laws against piracy and rid the country of counterfeiters and IP pirates.

"We have previously asked Malacañang through the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), for an executive order creating a task force for enforcement of intellectual property rights and granting us statistical powers. We reiterate our plea," IPOPHIL director general Ricardo Blancaflor said in a statement sent over the weekend.

He explained that apart from policy-making and regulatory powers, IPOPHIL also needed enforcement functions, which included inspection, investigation, and prosecution powers.

The granting of enforcement powers to IPOPHIL was being pushed via House Bill No. 3917 and Senate Bill No. 2333, both pending since last year.

Blancaflor noted that the high incidence of IP piracy in the country, characterized by the proliferation of counterfeit branded goods and pirated optical media, required the assignment of "a police force dedicated solely to enforcing the rights of owners, brand owners, inventors and the like."

"The consumption is that intellectual property can be freely shared, used and reproduced when, in reality these are rights that we should respect and cannot just trample upon," he said. "Our current enforcers are already saddled with the task of enforcing peace and order. Enforcing intellectual property is a special matter that requires special attention."

In an earlier interview, he said IPOPHIL's overall strategy entailed the curbing of criminal rights, which would allow the agency to enforce IP rights even before counterfeit goods reach the market.

With enforcer powers, IPOPHIL can inspect warehouses and other areas even without a warrant. This will be particularly useful for preventing counterfeit goods from even making it out of the ports and warehouses and into the market.

Such powers will also allow IPOPHIL to secure declarations related to imported goods, as well as prosecute IP rights violations, including piracy and counterfeiting.

He said granting police powers to IPOPHIL was "the catalyst to ridding Quiapo, 168, Makati Cinema Square and other plum malls of their worldwide notoriety."

The United States Trade Representative Office placed Quiapo on its list of notorious markets alongside 30 other physical markets in Argentina, China, Colombia, Ecuador, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Pakistan, Paraguay, Russia, Thailand, and Ukraine.

"Quiapo is just one example of several locations and neighborhoods, especially in metropolitan Manila, known to deal in counterfeit and pirated goods such as clothing, shoes, watches and handbags," the July 2010 USTR report stated.

BUSINESS

Puregold ties up with Vista Land on store space lease

Firms eye other agreements in various Villar-owned projects

By Doris C. Dumlao

LOCKDOWN CHAIN Puregold Price Club Inc. is set to open by year's end a new supermarket in The Lakefront property of Vista Land & Lifescapes Inc. in Sucat, Parañaque City.

This is seen as an opening salvo in more retail property deals between the groups of businessman Lucio Co and Sen. Manny Villar.

Villar-led Vista Land announced on Saturday the signing of a 16-year lease agreement with Puregold covering an area of 2,350 square meters at the 60-hectare The Lakefront, which boasts of a commercial hub called The Wharf that houses restaurants, convenience stores, spa and beauty salon, a bank and some offices.

This is part of a previously announced plan by Vista Land, whose core business is selling residential property, to likewise generate income by developing a commercial leasing portfolio.

"Vista Land and Puregold are currently exploring the possibility of signing similar lease agreements in other key projects under development by Vista Land such as Evia in Las Piñas, Cerca and Alta Silesia in Sta. Rosa, Laguna," the Vista Land statement said.

"We appreciate the confidence and support shown by Puregold in choosing to partner with Vista Land and become a key lessee at The Lakefront," said Vista Land chief executive officer Bonifacio Thenver Javier. "We are looking forward to building a mutually beneficial relationship with Puregold through this and other commercial transactions in the future."

"Our supermarket at the Lakefront should be open for business by the fourth quarter of 2011," said Puregold president Leonardo Dayao. "Puregold is pleased to have forged this agreement with Vista Land and an opportunity to strengthen our business relationship by setting up stores in other key developments of Vista Land in the coming years."

Vista Land has completed several subdivision developments and buildings at The Lakefront over the past few years.

These included San Francisco-inspired subdivisions La Posada and Marina Heights and the mid-rise buildings Presidio and Market. The company recently announced the launching of mid-rise projects in the area.

Puregold, owned and operated by the family of Co, has a network of about 70 stores, which would be built up to 100 by year's end. It also plans to debut on the Philippine Stock Exchange and sell as much as P11.2 billion worth of shares to the public.

Hyundai PH sales grew 3% in first 3 months

By Abigail L. Ho

SALES OF Korean-based Hyundai motor up 3.1 percent in the first quarter to 4,712 units, from 4,571 units in the same period last year, according to local distributor Chemical Asia Resources Inc. (Chari).

This ended the industry's 6.2-percent growth during the period.

In March alone, Hyundai sales fell 12 percent to 1,610 units from the 1,827 units registered in the same period a year ago. Compared with February sales of 1,506 units, the March figure was up 6 percent.

The Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. (Campi) said the Truck Manufacturers Association reported on Friday that sales for the month of March grew 12.6 percent to 13,775 units from the previous year's 11,224 units. The figure did not include sales of Hyundai vehicles in the country as Mari is not a member of Campi.

Despite Hyundai's modest growth, the company managed to retain the No. 3 spot in the locator-dumy in terms of sales in the first three months, behind Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. and Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp.

Hyundai attributed its first-quarter sales growth to the increasing popularity of its passenger car offerings, particularly the new Accent, which was launched last December, and the Getz.

In the January-March period, Hyundai's passenger car sales jumped 58 percent to 1,089 units from 1,096 units in the same period last year.

Sales of its light commercial vehicles, on the other hand, decreased to 3,623 units in the first three months, down 5 percent from the 3,976 units sold in the same time the year before.

Moving forward, Hari president and chief executive Jr Shinn-Ilgu said the company was on track to achieving its sales targets for the year, but declined to elaborate.

Asean firms up deal to establish regional fund

THE ASSOCIATION of Southeast Asian Nations will soon finalize an agreement on the establishment of an Asean Infrastructure Fund (AIF), with the help of Asian Development Bank, according to the regional finance ministers.

Based on the latest data, the fund now amounts to about $485 million.

In a joint statement, the Asean finance chiefs said they agreed in principle to the AIF's technical design and contributions that will come from Asean members as well as the ADB. The ministers, including Philippine Secretary Cesar V. Purisima, held a meeting in Bali, Indonesia last week.

"We are pleased with the significant progress achieved by the high-level task force on AIF toward establishing the fund," the ministers said.

The entity that will administer the AIF will be based in Malaysia.

Finalizing the AIF agreement "will strongly demonstrate the strength and commitment of Asean solidarity and consensus towards sustaining growth, facilitating the physical connectivity, and narrowing the infrastructure development gap in Asean," they added.

The Asean is composed of the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam.

The ministers also noted the World Bank for its support, citing the WB-Asean Infrastructure Framework in 2009.

"We also endorsed the proposed programs offered by the WB under the IDA for 2011," they said.

According to the World Bank, the IDA is a platform for knowledge exchange between the public and private sectors. The focus of IDA is on new approaches to financing infrastructure projects and on establishing credit culture in public sector infrastructure operations.

Manuel M. Dominguez

ONE OF WORLD'S BEST

Despite fostering Filipino officials led by Gov. Amando Tetangco Jr. (center), along with key private sector finance figures, held a toast in honor of the Philippine rice-tillurance industry, which has been ranked the best in the world in terms of regulatory framework and second best performing in terms of overall business environment next only to Peru, according to The Economist Intelligence Unit of The Economist Group.

DBM disburses P1B for infra work

Key seaports, airports to receive bulk of funding

By Romel W. Dominguez

THE DEPARTMENT of Budget and Management has released P1.385 billion to fund various airports, seaports and other transportation infrastructure projects that the Department of Transportation and Communication will undertake.

According to Budget Secretary Florencio B. Abad, President Aquino has already given the green light on special allotment release orders (SAROs) for several projects to enable the DOTC to begin negotiating the various projects and take advantage of the favorable weather in the coming months.

Of the total amount released, P536.5 million has been allocated for airport and navigational facilities, P384.5 million for seaports and lighthouses, and P250 million for the rehabilitation of the Philippine National Railways commuter line linking Alabang in Muntinlupa City to Calamba in Laguna.

For airport projects, the SAROs include: P75 million to acquire property for the Aklanon Airport in Panguinon; P75 million for construction of a new terminal for the Bicol airport in Tambingan; the Bantay, P60 million for the San Fernando Airport in Palawan; and P35 million for the rehabilitation of the old domestic terminal in Aklan's Kalibo Airport.

For the seaport projects, the SAROs include P40.3 million for the development of the Cadiz Port; P60 million for the San Fernando port in Zambales; P58 million for the expansion of the Plaza Pier in Surigao del Norte; and P25 million for the development of the Lapon Port in Davao Oriental.

The Aquino administration is committed to invest properly in infrastructure projects," the budget secretary said. "It does on the right track. Even transportation infrastructure projects are expected to increase economic activities, such as tourism and trade of agricultural goods."

Abad added that the airport and seaport projects would drum up more business for local businesses, merchants, and help support local agribusiness companies in marketing their products to other places.

Also, Abad said the P500 committee has would provide a faster mass transit system and more jobs to Metro Manila from nearby provinces in the south.

Last month, the DBM also released P2 billion for the National Power Corp.'s small power utilities group (SPUG) as part of efforts to augment supply in small power plants serving far-flung areas across the country.

Factory-gate prices fell 1.4% in Feb.

FACTORY-GATE PRICES fluctuated by 1.4 percent year-on-year in February despite a double-digit surge in the prices of petroleum, mineral and metal products, according to the National Statistics Office.

NSO data show that prices of manufactured items have been declining for 22 straight months, mainly due to the continuing decrease in the prices of non-electrical machinery, as well as furniture and fixtures, which fell by 12.8 percent and 22 percent, respectively.

In the fourth quarter of 2010, the industry sector—including manufacturing—was cited as the main driver of economic growth, which came to at 7.1 percent.

Manufacturing grew faster at 8.9 percent in the October to December period, mainly due to the contribution of food, miscellaneous products, electrical machinery, and chemicals.

However, growth in manufacturing was hampered by slower expansion in the production of textiles, basic metal, leather, and wood products, according to results from the NSO's latest monthly survey of factory-gate prices.

Based on the producer price index (PPI), which covers 16 selected groups of manufactured goods, the prices of five groups shrank, while 11 others gained, the NSO reported.

Prices of electrical machinery, miscellaneous manufactures, paper and paper products, chemicals, and wood and wood products dropped by a single digit.

On the other hand, double digit gains were observed in petroleum products (19.7 percent), non-metallic minerals (12.8 percent), and basic metals (11.1 percent).

Other gainers were food manufacturing, rubber and plastic products, tobacco, fabricated metal products, transport equipment, textiles, leather, footwear and wearing apparel and beverages.

On a month-on-month basis, the change in the PPI among departments by -0.3 percent from 1.3 percent in January.

Romel W. Dominguez

CNG bus operators pray for supply for Holy Week

OPERATORS OF buses running on compressed natural gas (CNG) are appealing to the Department of Energy (DOE) to order the local CNG refilling stations in Laguna to ensure stable supply this coming Holy Week.

In a statement, KBOA president Roberto E. Torres said they were hoping that the DOE would keep an eye on Philippine Shell's supplier (or refilling) station in Mamplasan, Laguna as fuel operation anticipate a high volume of passengers in the period running up to the Holy Week.

"Historically, the daughter station encounters all kinds of problems at times when we need the CNG supply most," Torres said.

With the continuous increase in prices of diesel and toll fees, bus operators are now seeking a little relief from the use of CNG, which was pitched way lower than that of diesel.

However, the lack of CNG supply from the Pilipinas Shell station has been hampering the success of the National Gas Vehicle Program for Public Transport (NGVPPT) program of the DOE.

The NGVPPT is a seven year public program that would peg the price of CNG at P14.52 a liter, less than half the price of diesel, for participating bus operators. It was supposed to promote greater use of natural gas for transport.

But with only one another and one daughter station owned and operated by Pilipinas Shell, the CPG fuel buses included under the program could only ply the Manila-Tiaong to Laguna-Batangas route.

The number of buses running on CNG remained limited as well.

But operators have also long been complaining about the irregular supply, as buses have to stay in the daughter station for more than four hours, cutting down time on the road to two round trips, instead of the ideal three to four.

However, Energy Secretary Jose Rene D. Almendras had assured CNG operators that the government is set to improve the situation through with the natural gas projects. He even declared that the DOE was ready to invest in another CPG mother and daughter station.

The energy chief has been pushing for the use of alternative fuels, given the surge in world oil prices.

Amy R. Remo

Gov't walks tightrope on RE, power rates

By Amy R. Remo

HOPING TO strike a balance between the need to establish a reliable supply of renewable energy (RE) and easing the burden to be shouldered by power consumers, the National Renewable Energy Board defended its 800-megawatt cap for RE facilities, saying that the resulting power rates would run one to be favorable for both producers and end-users.

NREB head Pedro Maniego Jr. explained that the NREB had to be careful in setting the total allowed capacity of RE facilities that would be put up in the country over the next three years.

Because wind and solar facilities involve costly technologies, the NREB wants to keep prices just right without further burdening power consumers. The installation target will be considered in determining the value of the proposed feed-in-tariff rate (FIT) by each source.

"According to World Bank consultant Leonardo Lopano, Spain had to drastically reduce its solar feed rates and moderate installation caps [after it installed] 3 gigawatts of solar facilities] within one year. The impact on Spain's electricity rates was very high, forcing also experienced similar problems," Maniego explained.

"Even German consumers are complaining that they subsidized the development of solar technologies, up with high FITs, but China is reaping the fruits. Because of high FITs, Germany had to resort to every personal stock in the bank to slow down the approval of solar applications. NREB would like to avoid similar problems in the Philippines," he added.

Maniego also pointed out that there was a need to ensure whether the grid has enough buffer to absorb and secure for sudden losses of power supply particularly the energy generated from wind and solar facilities.

"NREB could not recommend installation targets which are beyond the grid's absorptive capacity," he said.

According to Maniego, NREB tries to maximize the installation targets for all technologies.

"Ernst emphasize that the installation targets were actually determined and recommended by the Department of Energy, depending on the approved and complying service contracts or applications. NREB reviewed and endorsed approved highest installation targets for all sources, except biomass, wind and ocean," he said.

"The approval of the 800 MW installation targets was also conditional and could be adjusted depending on the grid impact study to be submitted by the National Grid Corp. of the Philippines within April."

On his part, Energy Secretary Jose Rene D. Almendras noted that the FIT rates the NREB chose were very higher than the rates being implemented in other countries.

He pointed out the disadvantages of having to pay a 20-year contract that would peg prices of power from renewable energy sources.

The technologies involved are expected to mature and become cheaper over time, Almendras said.

The energy chief also cited the disparity between the FIT rate for solar here to the Philippines, which was around P17 per kilowatt hour, and that of Malaysia, reported to range between P9 to P12 per kWh.

"And yet, investors are still going to Malaysia," Almendras pointed out.

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ABSOLUTE

Threats to economic growth seen

Asian finance ministers call for rapid integration

NUSA DUA, INDONESIA—Asian finance ministers agreed last Friday to speed up regional integration and pledged to press ahead with plans for a disaster insurance fund in the wake of Japan's measure's disaster.

They also warned that rising food and oil prices could threaten the global economic recovery, and expressed concern about massive inflows of destabilizing "hot money" from abroad.

Indonesia's rupiah hit four-year highs against the greenback last week and inflation is running at more than 6.5 percent, underlining concerns that the region's most successful economies may be close to bulging over.

"In contrast (to developed countries), emerging and developing economies have led the global economic recovery," Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said at the start of the talks on the island of Bali.

"This is of course no time to be complacent," he added, warning of inflation and the "increasing severity and impact of natural disasters and climate change".

Trade and liquidity imbalances continued with rising commodity prices "may threaten the global economic recovery, fiscal and monetary economy and the achievement of millennium development goals" such as poverty reduction, he said.

"The increasing linkage of Asian to the global economy has enhanced the potential spillover from external shocks into our region," he told finance ministers and central bankers from the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).

With Europe's sovereign debt crisis spreading to Portugal and much of the developing world's economies still in the doldrums after the global financial downturn, Asia has become a magnet for capital seeking better returns.

That much of it has been in the form of volatile portfolio investment that can quickly distort just as fast as it is injected, causing fears of instability in economies that are leading the global recovery.

Yudhoyono said the best protection from external shocks was closer regional cooperation and the creation of a planned Asean common market of almost 600 million people by 2015.

Indonesia is the current chair of the grouping and its biggest economy. The block also includes Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. AFP

WORLD Trade Organization (WTO) director-general Pascal Lamy (right) attends a press conference at the WTO headquarters in Geneva. Growth in global trade is expected to slow to 6.5 percent this year after record-breaking expansion of 14.5 percent in 2010, the World Trade Organization said. AFP

Google's Page makes first changes to management since takeover as CEO

SAN FRANCISCO—Google Inc CEO Larry Page streamlined division, making it six key product groups, including social networking and mobile, as the Internet search giant revs up efforts to compete with Facebook and Apple Inc.

Page, in his first major reorganization since taking the reins as CEO early last week, placed executives leading the groups directly under his supervision, eliminating management layers thought to slow product development, according to sources familiar with the situation.

Social networking chief Vic Gundotra, Android head Andy Rubin, Chrome senior vice president Sundar Pichai and Youtube head Salar Kamangar have been given a direct reporting line to Page and greater autonomy, the sources said.

Also given a direct line to Page were search senior vice president Shar Dubrow and advertising chief Susan Pojcicki, the sources said.

The management reorganization, one of the first moves by Page since taking the CEO reins from Eric Schmidt last week, signals the company's strategic priorities at a time when mobile gadgets and social media services redefine the way people use the Internet.

"The folks that you're seeing, which as part of the way I see how it came to the top, are sort of the core areas of the business that the company is focused on," said one source familiar with the matter.

But these groups, the source said, the idea is to have less of a "hierarchal" management structure, in which decisions need to be approved across various departments.

Social networking, an area where Google has struggled to find the right touch, will have a much higher profile within the company.

"At least social is at the same table with Android and search and ads," said Jefferies Group LLC analyst Brendan Barber. "Social is now a big part of the discussion."

Google is the world's No. 1 search engine and generated roughly $29 billion in revenue in 2010.

But the company's position as the main gateway to online information is threatened by Facebook, whose 500 million members regularly use the service to chat about everything from media and movies to world events.

Google has had greater success in mobile with its Android smartphone software.

In the three months ending in February, Android became the most popular smartphone software in the United States, ahead of Apple and Research In Motion Ltd, according to recent surveys by research firm comScore.

A Google spokesperson confirmed that there had been a management reorganization at the company, but declined to provide details. The spokesperson noted that it had been very clear when the CEO change was announced in January that Page was looking to streamline the way the company is run and to make clear lines of accountability.

Investors had predicted bold and aggressive moves by Page to rekindle growth and taper at Google, and a new, renewed focus on search, mobile and technological innovation, following a decade under the leadership of former CEO Eric Schmidt.

But some feared Page, who co-founded Google while a computer graduate student at Stanford in 1998, would neglect the crucial CEO's task of managing the expectations of Wall Street. Reuters

WALL STREET

Earnings to dictate investors' mood

NEW YORK—Investors will look to corporate profits and outlooks this week for confirmation the S&P 500 has another leg to its rally as the earnings season gets under way.

Four component firms will launch the earnings season after the closing bell today to what is expected to be another solid round of corporate results.

The aluminum producer is expected to report quarterly earnings of 27 cents per share on revenue of $6.07 billion, according to Thomson/Reuters estimates.

Same-cup financial names are also expected to report this week, including JPMorgan Chase & Co and Bank of America Corp. Google Inc is also due to report.

"Earnings are what the market is all about. Earnings are critical in here, guidance is critical to here, the conference calls are critical in here," said Paul Mendelsohn, chief investment strategist at Windham Financial Services in Charlotte, Vermont.

"So lots of earnings and owners, you basically want to be with those people who have the ability to raise prices or are participating in the commodity price increases," he said. "And you really don't want to be in those people who have the input costs increases and are going in and their margins squeezed by rising commodity prices."

Market analysts have heard encouragement for a strong earnings season from the relatively light amount of company preannouncements, leading to the belief that ongoing commodity costs have yet to compress margins and impact corporate profits.

The Reuters/Jefferies CRB index rose 8 percent in the first quarter and is up 1.6 percent so far in April, and hit its highest level since September 2008.

The S&P 500 has recouped all of the losses suffered in the wake of the Japanese earthquake on March 11 but has been unable to convincingly muscle past the 1,333.00 level, a technical resistance point representing double the 12-year low hit on March 9, 2009.

The benchmark index was relatively flat for the week, down 0.3 percent, as the prospect of a government shutdown kept the rally at bay.

Investors will also eye a batch of economic data this week, providing more insight into the the economic recovery, including the consumer and producer prices indexes, the Reuters/University of Michigan consumer sentiment index and the Federal Reserve's Beige Book of economic activity. Reuters

"The inflation numbers will certainly be important—producer price index and consumer price index—the expectation is inflation will be higher than the Federal Reserve will feel comfortable with," said Hugh Johnson, chief investment officer of Hugh Johnson Advisors LLC in Albany, New York.

"The focus [this] week will clearly be on the earnings numbers and the economic numbers and that is where the focus of the market should be." Reuters

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BUSINESS

Clean air is a human right

$18-B mining investments seen by 2016

Metal prices forecast to remain high in next few years

By Riza T. Olchondra

TOTAL MINING investments in the Philippines are expected to reach $18 billion by 2016, a Cabinet secretary told participants at the Asia Mining Congress in Singapore.

"We are very optimistic (about) doing it," Environment Secretary Ramon J.P. Paje said.

He noted that commodities enjoyed high demand and the price of gold was expected to remain high over the next few years.

He also assured investors that the government was freeing up idle claims for new investment, promoting responsible mining even among small-scale operators and encouraging downstream industries to meet the investment target.

"See you in the Philippines!" Paje said in closing his speech at the mining congress.

So far, total cumulative mining investments in the Philippines have reached $3.04 billion as of end-2010 from 2004, the year when the Supreme Court affirmed full foreign ownership of capital in massive, large-scale mining projects. The high tribunal's decision was widely believed to have signaled government support for the industry, encouraging investors to place their bet on the Philippines' copper, gold and other minerals.

Between now and 2016, several investments are being completed: The $5.9-billion Tampakan copper-gold project of Sagittarius Mines Inc.; about $1.8 billion for the Ringlung copper-gold project from its Australian parent Oz Minerals; the $1.4-billion hydrometallurgical nickel processing plant of Nickel Asia Corp. and Sumitomo Metal Mining of Japan (the second such facility in the Philippines after Coral Bay); $1 billion for the Runruno project of Philex Mining Corp.; $1 billion Franco-South Africa-based Gold Fields Group of Companies, which is participating in the Batangas gold project of Medusa Resources Ltd.; and undertaking due diligence work into Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co.'s Far Southeast gold project; and $800 million from the Bayugo gold-molybdenum project of PCP Minerals Corp., backed by Hinatuan Exploration Pty of Australia.

As part of efforts to boost investments, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, through the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), is clearing up its system of reassessing or inactive mining applications.

MGB director Leo Jasareno said that more than 900 reassessing applications have been unsealed and more were expected to be posted within 2011 to make way for new prospective investors.

There were proposals as well to encourage value-adding through minerals processing and to limit the direct shipping of raw ore, which sells at a much cheaper price than semi-processed and processed products.

Another proposal was to declare mineral reservations in the country, which Paje said would address land-use conflicts by designating the affected areas exclusively for mining. Mineral reservations would also increase royalties to 5 percent on top of the 2 percent excise tax.

There is also an ongoing review of the current mining easement permitting system for the possible shift from the "first come, first served" system of accepting mining applications to a "public bidding" system.

Meanwhile, the proclaimed easement mapping of 56 municipalities cross-cut by watersheds was completed to identify areas prone to floods, landslides and other geohazards. The entire country has been mapped on a scale of 1:50,000 and the BSR is completing a more detailed 1:10,000 map. The mapping project is seen to help not only investors but also economic managers and local governments in planning strategies for agriculture, industry and disaster risk management.

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New Smart Store focuses on emerging mobile consumer needs

ANTICIPATING THE shift of telecom retail away from simply selling phones and serving as a bills payment center, Smart Communications recently announced the roll-out of the flagship Smart Store at the Power Plant in Rockwell Center. This is the first in a chain of Smart Stores to be launched nationwide within the year.

Earlier Smart had established a "wide lot" survey among its subscribers to determine their preferences and expectations from a telecom retail store. The new Smart Store is the embodiment of a lifestyle-based integrated experience where they can explore and play with products and services. The customer-focused environment is like a mobile marketplace where technology becomes more approachable to shoppers, whether they are digital beginners or technology savvy. A welcoming store facade features the new Smart Store logo set in playful style and colors, getting passersby a clear to the fun experience that awaits them inside.

The core of the store experience consists of interactive areas featuring innovative product displays and demonstration pods, giving customers the creative freedom to explore, supported by the Smart's products and services. Friendly and knowledgeable staff enthusiasts with them through complete customer assistance/try solutions powered by Smart's broad and reliable network, and by state-of-the-art technology support. Available in the store are a wide range of phone models including the latest smartphones available both for Smart-lite and Smart Gold postpaid plans, as well as services catering to Smart's pre-paid subscribers and Smart money.

The store layout reflects a modern, sensitive and surveillance design theme to evoke an upbeat, youthful and vibrant atmosphere that appeals to its varied customers. It offers lifestyle lounges and waiting areas to encourage relaxed interactions with the staff. It game terminal allows visitors to play games from Android phones and experience other appli-

cations. Adding a welcome human touch, free refreshments and snacks are available while customers play or wait to pay their bills. A dog manned wireless area has modular bar with service counter, cash and account management and payments. The store display features, which serve as an integrated platform for various phone brands, laptops and other gadgets, allow visitors to experience, try out and play with the handsets. A TV screen television making customers and gives a moving display of products and services. Smart Store personnel in their new distinctive uniforms by designer Francis Libiran also underwent personality and product knowledge training to better enable them to advise customers and provide guided hands-on experience with the products and services.

With the launch of its refreshed new store, Smart has taken its retail strategy a level higher beyond the world of product equipment and price wars, to provide a better shopping and shopping environment for its subscribers.

PHILRACLO SUPPORTS THE MET GROUP

The Manila Electric Company (Meralco) and The Met Group (MET) recently renewed their contract and signed a new "Agreement to the Sale of Electricity," inclusive of MET's business expansion. This will be having additional load requirements for their blend project, the first 1 mw, a new commercial building located at the Fort Bonifacio Global City which is expected to be energized by the third quarter of 2011. The agreement was inked by Meralco senior vice president and corporate business group head Victor S. Ojeyame and MET corporate head EVP Ma. Teresa Bautista.

FESTIVAL SUPERMALL ALABANG TAPS RTKC

Festival Supermall in Alabang, Muntinlupa has announced that its newest marketing partner is Rotary Club of Alabang, donating used clothing items for environmental sustainability and disaster relief. The partnership with Rotary Alabang is managed by Festival Supermall's Public Affairs Department.

Festival Supermall Executive Assistant Ma. Victoria Ann Lim (left) and Rotary Club of Alabang President Ma. Teresa Bautista (right) sign the partnership agreement.

Mall activities anchor stores and over 700 kiosks, a total of 2,000 mall-based parking slots, various food courts, a 6-floor department store, cinemas and MRT, and 10 state-of-the-art cinemas.

The safest and most cost-effective way to treat your drinking water

PEOPLE DON'T realize that drinking water straight from their faucet without treating it are at risk of getting cancer in the long term. That's because tap water is treated with chlorine, which in turn causes liver and pancreatic problems with long term use, according to Electrolux, a company that manufactures and builds water and air purifiers.

Chemicals of water is different from purifying or distilling. Both purifying, water becomes acidic and loses than half of the water being treated is wasted. In distilling removes nutrients in the water that makes it as good as dead. The Electrolux ULTIMO is environmentally safe as it doesn't require the traditional backwash of reverse osmosis that chemicals and water. Instead, the chemical process can be either used by the drinking water needs of a sizable village like most projections of DMCI Homes and the very prestigious Ayala Alabang Village, as well as church convents, hospitals, hotels and schools.

Electrolux guarantees the effectiveness of its ionizers that they also build pool treatment ionizers which does away with expensive maintenance chlorine and chloramines to acid. But to be installed with the chlorine safe chloramine that is sturdy and many pool ionizers make it safe for your family to swim in a chemical free pool and will readily save an Olympic size pool owner as much as P500,000 a year on chemical bills. This is perfect for resorts, schools, hotels, village club house pools and sports clubs.

For more information on the products of Electrolux, call 474-2744, 981-0690, 473-0144 or log on to www.electrolux-inc.com.

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Electrolux guarantees the effectiveness of its ionizers that they also build pool treatment ionizers which does away with expensive maintenance chlorine and chloramines to acid. But to be installed with the chlorine safe chloramine that is sturdy and many pool ionizers make it safe for your family to swim in a chemical free pool and will readily save an Olympic size pool owner as much as P500,000 a year on chemical bills. This is perfect for resorts, schools, hotels, village club house pools and sports clubs.

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Food Bowl Night Market at Centris Walk

MAKASING MAYOG Eldorado becomes a popular destination for foodies, health buffs, young urban professionals and just about everyone looking for unique, delicious and nutritious bites. Now people have a new place to go to – the Food Bowl Night Market at Centris Walk. It's held every Friday and Saturday from 4 p.m. to 12 a.m. It will run until May 14. Centris Walk's open space and spacious location with ample parking space is ideal for sellers to showcase their organic, bio-dynamic and natural products from vegetables and grains to meats and seafood. Ready-to-eat meals are also available for choices. For more information on the Food Bowl Night Market, call (0917) 9662242. Centris Walk is the lifestyle and dining center that is at the center of Cebu Centris, a 13 hectare township development encompassing live-work-play elements, located in the rebirthed Quezon City's new emerging Triangle CBD. To know more about Centris Walk, visit www.sites.com.ph/e-mail commercial.ayalaland.com.ph or call (632) 918 9000 and (632) 909 3888.

HBC launches date promo with Piolo

PINOY PERSONAL com retailer HBC has is giving your mom reasons to celebrate your perfect romantic getaway with a chance to date ultimate heartthrob Piolo Pascual in the latest paradise of Boracay. For a minimum purchase of P300 worth of HBC products, two customers can get a chance to enjoy an all-expense-paid trip to Boracay with Piolo Pascual (3 days and 2 nights accommodation courtesy of Shangri-La Boracay Resort), plus an autographed Piolo Gallaway coffee table book, gift packs from the HBC and other exciting prizes, aside from joining the promo through HBC stores, customers can increase their chances of winning by logging on to www.facebook.com/myHBC and write about their best HBC shopping experience and why do they think they deserve to win a date with Piolo. The Facebook contest is open to residents of Metro Manila and Luzon. HBC items are available in all leading supermarkets, department stores and convenience stores. For more information, visit www.hbc.com.ph or contact HBC Customer Care at (632) 984-0000 loc: 209/304 (0917-5229 or e-mail customer@hbc.com.ph.

GFK honors top tech brands

GFK PHILIPPINES recently awarded the country's 12 top-selling electronics, IT, photo, and mobile phone products. In the recent GfK No. 1 Awards held at The Grand Ballroom, Manila Social events were honored as the best-selling machines and gadgets, based on GfK Philippines' retail panel data from January 2010 to December 2010. Samsung was given the most awards, winning in the PTVs, Monitors, and Audio Home Systems divisions. Canon and Sharp each nabbed two awards. Canon won digital cameras in the SLR division and camcorders in the Mini DV division. Sharp was awarded in the top seller in the CRT TVs and Washing Machines categories. Other consumer electronics brands that received awards were Epson in the Air Conditioners category, HP was in the Total Printing Devices division, while Nokia was awarded in the Mobile Computers category. Makkoman the top seller in Rice Cooker and Smart phones, while Panasonic was honored in the Refrigerators category. Sony was again in the Camcorders category after a previous victory last year. For MP3s, Memorex proudly received the award in the Portable Media Players major product categories. Taken as the overall winner, the awarding scheme is also held and recognized in other Asian countries. The GfK Group is one of the largest market research companies in the world, and delivers services in Custom Research, Retail, and Technology and Media sectors.

New consumer markets head for Citibank

THE CITIBANK Group has recently announced the appointment of Sergio Ziseth as consumer markets head for its Philippine franchise. In this role, Sergio will be responsible for managing all matters related to Citibank's consumer banking and cards businesses in the Philippines. Prior to joining Citibank Philippines, Sergio held various senior executive positions in Citi's consumer and cards businesses first in Peru, and then in Mexico, Argentina, and Ecuador. His previous tenure spans a total of 14 years. His most recent assignment was as executive vice president and country business group head for Citibank Ecuador. Sergio's career with Citi started in 1996 in Peru. Born and raised in Peru, Sergio holds a Bachelor and a Licence Degree in Business Administration from Universidad del Pacifico in Lima-Peru, and an MBA from Purdue University in Indiana which he obtained in 1996 as a Fulbright Scholar.

Equicom Savings Bank offers twin promos

EQUICOM SAVINGS Bank (ESB), one of the country's fastest growing thrift banks, launches two programs that aims to help its clients get the most out of their credit card transactions in the form of savings and payment convenience. For those who want to transfers themselves from outright payments of straight purchases using their credit cards, there's the Equicom Payment Plan, where cardholders can access their credit limits to make immediate monthly installment payments, ranging from 3 to 12 months terms. This deal is also applicable for Equicom Super Cheque transactions. In time for the school opening, the bank offers the Equicom Tuition Deals promo where cardholders can use their Equicom cards to pay for tuition and other school fees on installment basis and 3, 6 or 12 months terms. Cardholders can avail of this promo at the following accredited schools: La Consolacion College of Manila, San Beda College Alabang and San Beda College Mendiola. For tuition fee payments in non-accredited schools, and purchases of educational related supplies, Equicom cardholders may reimburse these expenses which can be paid back on school's convenient installment terms. Interested cardholders only need to fill up the Tuition Deals request forms and fax it to Equicom's hotline at (02)291 4940 together with a copy of the following: school ID, online student, official school assessment forms, and official receipts of other related expenses. Forms are available for download at or you may visit any Equicom Savings bank branch near you. The Tuition Deals Promo is until June 30, for attractive and current Equicom Credit Cardholders with good credit standing. For more information regarding these services, and call the 24/7 help hotlines at 891-0663. Domestic Toll Free 1-800-10-9-2265 (ESB), or visit www.equicomsavings.com.

Never too young to learn the science of success

WORLD STARS is a story of a growing number of extraordinary superstars who are being prepared to live their lives and meet the great challenges and opportunities of today's complex and competitive society. The Superstar Achievers' Camp is a 7-day transformational camp that helps the youth build the super achiever mental, beliefs, energy and success mindset of the great minds of achievement consistently in school and in life. World Stage is also launching an Overseas Youth Leadership Camp called GREAT (Business Inducement Science and Technology) that will run for 12 days in Singapore and Malaysia. GREAT is 70% multicultural games designed to playing simulation exercises as change agents run city and town around Singapore and Malaysia with a leader's eye. Here one plays these games is a reflection of his behaviors and patterns in life. The participants will then be given the opportunity to immediately implement to become achievers. Registration for these exciting and empowering camps this summer. World Stage Superstar Achiever's Camp Teens Edition: May 11 to 14 at Philips Seminary Edition (Middle Teens) May 17 to 19 (Middle 2) '384. World Stage Superstar Achiever's Camp Tweens Edition: May 21 to 25 at MMUSC Batangas and June 3, 4 (middle 2) TBA World Stage Supreme GREAT Camp in Singapore/Malaysia: April 25 to May 3. Promo valid to team mates during the World Stage Summit Camp, call or text Tweme at 0917-889-2004 or e-mail worldstage@newmindstory.com.

Display your Pinoy pride with Jollibee Yum shirts

YOUNG PEOPLE can express their Pinoy pride in style with the new limited-edition Jollibee YUM shirts that carry the most famous "Yum Yoong, I am Pinoy I Yum!" slogan. These cool new graphic tees from Jollibee come in various designs and colors. Aside from the Jollibee Bee and Chickenjoy mascots, Philippine map shirts. Available in two colorful and cool designs, the Jollibee YUM shirts can be bought in selected Jollibee stores nationwide until April 22 for only P199 with a purchase of any Jollibee Burger Value Meal. So hurry and head over to the nearest Jollibee store now and be one of the few who will get to own these cool Yum shirts.

Billabong's limited-edition waterproof camera

SEE YOU in extreme lifestyle experience, as the world's leading action sports brand brings the perfect complement to your head-to-toe gear. This summer, Billabong launches the limited-edition Billabong Waterproof camera in Asia. The basics of function and style comes in a solid waterproof casing, with a depth capability of 3 meters. The camera also has widely-acted rope to prevent it from floating away. The package includes a soft pouch to protect the camera when not in use. Get your own Billabong Waterproof camera this summer. Philippine snap shots. Available in two colorful and cool designs, the Jollibee YUM shirts can be bought in selected Jollibee stores nationwide until April 22 for only P199 with a purchase of any Jollibee Burger Value Meal. So hurry and head over to the nearest Jollibee store now and be one of the few who will get to own these cool Yum shirts.

Lasting gifts for the graduates

GRADUATING LIONESS! All those who are graduates personalized hand-created mini-scrapbooks made with meaningful quotes and more as unique gifts. This long-lasting gift can indeed make this year's graduation extra special. Aside from joy, why not give your friends' memories of their most anticipated days in their high school and college life – graduation Day. The "Mini-Me" concept is quite unique and available in the following SM malls, namely: 3rd level Bldg. B, SM Mega Mall; 2nd floor across director's desk SM Mall of Asia; 2nd level near Star Books (by Gander) SM North Edsa; ground floor Gardens Area, SM Manila; and ground floor Main Mall across SM Megamall, Quezon City and Tiendesitas. Interested parties may contact (0998-8305; (0927-808-9617, or e-mail, lioness_tehsabbath@yahoo.com or visit www.lioness.multiply.com.

Conference on Philippine culture

A IM-KILT day conference on Philippine culture, organized by Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA), shall be held on April 16 at the National Library Conference Room in Manila. Speakers will include noted experts on architecture or their fields, such as Prof. Felipe M. de Leon Jr., writer-book author Rodolfo en "Dodi" dela Torre, Dr. Nina Gilmore, Dr. Myrna Pinkel, noted Filipino artist and printmaker Eli dela Cruz, art director Bernard Fernando, management consultant and artist Nilda Lapa, photographer/videographer Roland Rodriguez, and Roberto Lukaszyk. The conference is open to all teachers, professionals, cultural workers and college students. For details, call tel. nos. 811-4600 or 810-6925 or e-mail at philbiblio@yahoo.com.

Asia's Acoustic Sensation meets Bossa Nova Queen

ASIA'S ACOUSTIC Sensation Ace Degamo will hold a concert entitled "Hataw!" on April 30 at 7 p.m. This concert will be held at the Metro East Hotel Ballroom, Quezon City with special participation of the Philippines' Bossa Nova Queen Gimi and award-winning actress and singer Aya Medo. Tickets are sold at P1,000 and P1,500 with reserved seating. The only two-time Metro Manila Song Festival solid champ SM mall of Asia will host the concert on October online. The concert was made possible by Golden Treasure Skills and Development Program. For more information, call Gerly at 0921-4101111 or 426-1181.

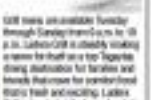
UnionBank launches its new UITF

UNIONBANK OF the Philippines has recently launched its newest fund to replace its Fixed Term Fund (UITF), the Unionbank Peso Balanced Portfolio, is an effort to provide investors with more investment options for their clients. The Union Bank Peso Balanced Portfolio is a peso-denominated fund which provides investors access to a diversified set of investment instruments in both equities and fixed income markets. By maintaining a balanced approach to asset allocation, the fund can provide income and potential growth from fixed income and equity investments. The Unionbank Peso Balanced Portfolio is suited for investors seeking attractive total returns within a medium to long term investment horizon. The minimum investment requirement of the fund is P100,000 and the minimum holding period is 90 days. Interested investors may open a UITF account at any Unionbank branch. For more information on Unionbank's other peso and dollar investment products and services visit www.unionbankph.com.

Product Files

Ladera Grill: A dining destination in Tagaytay

FOR THOSE that seek the scenic side of Tagaytay, the Ladera Grill, the restaurant owned by the late Fernando Kalaw Dee Gaba is a must try. The de-cluttered interior exudes an intimate, homelike feel, complete with a cozy fireplace and perfectly seasoned interior and there are also a seasonal walk. Grill fingers plus the dish-a-spicy, Ladera Grill is located at the lower level of Vista de Tagaytay Building, Tagaytay-Nasugbu Road, Laurel Batangas. To make a reservation or for more info call (02)810-4200, (02)1-5840214 or (0920-9209001.



Grill hours are available Sunday through Saturday from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Ladera Grill is steadily making a name for itself as a top Tagaytay dining destination for families and friends that crave for comfort food that's fresh and exciting. Ladera Grill is located at the lower level of Vista de Tagaytay Building, Tagaytay-Nasugbu Road, Laurel Batangas. To make a reservation or for more info call (02)810-4200, (02)1-5840214 or (0920-9209001.

Republic of the Philippines
VISAYAS STATE UNIVERSITY
City of Tacloban, Leyte

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE
FLORES HALL EXTENSION PROJECT (VA-02)

Activities	Schedule
1. Publication / Posting of Invitation to Bid	April 11, 2011
2. Issuance of Bid Documents	April 11 to 25, 2011
3. Pre-bidding Conference	April 18, 2011
4. Deadline for Submission of Bid Documents	April 25, 2011, 10:00 AM
5. Opening of Bids	April 25, 2011, 10:00 AM at the Lobby of the BAC
6. Bid Evaluation	April 25, 2011
7. Post-qualification	May 2, 2011
8. Notice of Award	May 3, 2011
9. Notice to Proceed	May 4, 2011

Republic of the Philippines
City of Tacloban
-o0o-
OFFICE OF THE CITY MAYOR

WANTED HOTEL OPERATOR

The City government of Tacloban through the City Committee on Awards hereby invites interested individual and/or corporations to operate, manage and maintain to use and Basic City Hotel with a capacity of 100 rooms located at the heart of the city along Tolentino Street across the Tacloban Commercial Village at the port area. The persons and/or corporation we are looking for must be responsible and duly licensed to operate in said line of business called for.

Interested persons/entities must submit their letter of intent attached with all the necessary and relevant documents to the office of the Chairman, City Committee on Awards, c/o Engr. Teodisio P. Zamora, Jr., at the Office of the City Mayor, Engr. Alfred Romualdez City Hall on or before April 15, 2011. After evaluation, all those found eligible shall be invited to participate the public bidding to be opened at 10:00 AM April 20, 2011 at the City Mayor's Office. Terms of Reference are readily available for sale at non-refundable fee amounting to P5,000.00.

The city government of Tacloban reserves the right to accept and/or reject any or all bids or to declare any bidder as disqualified or to declare the bidding as failure if it is in the best interest of the city government without incurring any liability to the affected bidder.

Tacloban City, April 8, 2011

(Sgd.) ROLANDO L. ALFONSO
City General Services Officer

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Leyte
Office of the Governor

INVITATION TO BID

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ILOILO II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Poblacion, Dalid

INVITATION TO BID

ILOILO II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. invites all interested parties to join the public bidding of the following items: Hardware & Accessories, Kilowatt-hour meters, Poles, Transformers, Rewinding Materials and Linemen Tools & Equipment.

The Schedule of Bidding will be on April 25, 2011, 1:00 PM at the ILECO II Board Room, Brgy. Cauayan, Poblacion, Dalid.

Bid documents may be obtained from the Secretariat of the Committee upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P 2,000.00. For more information please contact PBAC at telephone nos. (033) 529-8043/44, (033) 529-8046, (033) 529-8048.

ILECO II MANAGEMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, WAIVE ANY OF THE REQUIRED FORMALITY THEREIN AND ACCEPTS BIDS ONLY DEEMED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE COOPERATIVE.

(Sgd.) JOSE RICHMOND ERIC S. ROQUIOS
General Manager

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that RAYMUND G. CAMARSE whose picture appears above is no longer connected with **Wintrends Associates Insurance Brokers Corp.** All transaction made or entered into henceforth by Raymund G. Camarse will no longer be honoured by Wintrends. Any provisional receipts especially PR Nos. 25080 to 25150 that he issues will be considered null and void.

(Sgd.) April 9, 2011

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OBITUARIES

"Now I am about to go the way of all the earth. You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the LORD your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed."
– Joshua 23:14

My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from Him.
He alone is my rock and my salvation, He is my fortress, I will never be shaken.
— Psalm 62:1

ALFREDO Q. KANAPI

Joined our Creator on 10 April 2011
at the age of 87.

His memory is most treasured in the hearts of his wife Pilar A. Kanapi and his children and their families: Mailes, Jay & Rona, Buddy-Joy & Lani, Glenn & Chinggay, Lucho & Chuks, Weewa & Franco and Brad.

His remains will lie in state at Jacinto Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat, Parañaque City.

Prayers for the eternal repose of his soul is requested.

In Loving Memory
on the First Death Anniversary of

Cong. Carlos "Papay" Del Rosario Imperial

July 15, 1950 – April 11, 2010

We, the family of Cipriling, would like to request relatives, friends and the press reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

The Holy Mass will be offered for him today, April 11, 2011 at

St. Gregory The Great Cathedral Parish, Old Albay, Legazpi City	– 5:30 a.m.
Sagrada Familia Parish, Malabog, Albay	– 6:00 a.m.
Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Tabac Road, Legazpi City	– 6:30 a.m.
Our Lady of the Gate Parish, Daraga, Albay	– 6:30 a.m.
Parish of St. Joseph, Rawis, Legazpi City	– 6:30 a.m.
Parish of St. Jude Thaddeus, Lapu-Lapu St., Legazpi City	– 6:45 a.m.
Parish of St. Raphael Archangel, Legazpi Port, Legazpi City	– 12:15 a.m.
St. John Bosco Parish, Pinery Road, Makati City	– 6:00 p.m.
Sto. Niño De Pax Chapel, Greenhill, Makati City	– 6:00 p.m.
Our Mother of Perpetual Help, National Shrine, Baclaran	– 6:00 p.m.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Inquirer Obituaries

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
- Copy of Death Certificate
- Any identification document (ID)

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THIRD DAY MASS

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St. Anthony's Bldg., Aurora Blvd., Cubao, Quezon City
913-8011 • 913-8012 • Fax: 912-8011

5th Floor Bldg. B – 3M Megastrat, Mandaluyong City
535-0210 • Fax: 535-0220

G/F Traveller's Life Bldg., 490 T.M. Kalaw St., Ermita Manila
(in front of National Library)
525-5570 local 115 or 116
Telefax: 528-0233

SOLEDAD PEYAL BONCAN

joined her Creator on April 6, 2011
at the age of 91

Her funeral is fixed at 12:00 n at MAUR. CORET & DOE (T). JOSE A. PRESBE, CELT, LEO G. SUAVETTE, grandchildren and great-grandchildren request the press media to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Don Bosco Boys Chapel, Makati City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, April 12, 2011 at the Manila North Cemetery after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at the Don Bosco Boys Chapel.

INFOTECH

LGUs see silver lining in Big Blue

By Paolo C. Montecillo

TECH GIANT IBM has launched a new website that will allow policymakers from different local governments and (LGUs) in the Philippines to benchmark the performance and development of their respective cities as well as against others around the world.

The new City Forward site can be accessed at www.cityforward.com.

The site is meant to improve the quality of life in towns and cities by helping officials make smarter and more scientific decisions concerning basic services for their citizens.

"The city gives policymakers, infrastructure and the public a new perspective on how their respective cities are performing compared with others," IBM said in a statement. "It serves up easy-to-use data to help them make more informed decisions that improve services and make their citizens and businesses/localities happier, safer, more productive and prosperous."

The new site captures a city's "vital statistics" on the performance of specific services such as education, safety, health, transportation, land use, utilities, energy, environment, personal income, spending, population growth and employment.

People might log on to the site to compare their hometown with a rental success shown by another, comparable city. They can then devise strategies to replicate those successes, "said the tech giant first came to be known in Big Blue by the color of its logo.

The software also helps people spot unforeseen patterns and relationships between city life and government policies.

City Forward can tap into new or diverse measures of daily life, and help people reason on how one issue may affect another, seemingly unrelated issue, IBM said. It can then spot new ideas and insights to assist people in predicting the results.

Any citizen, advocate, government official and academic could easily use these gathered, compare, analyze, visualize and discuss statistical trends, giving them real-world insights that can help shape public policy before laws are amended or passed.

Official data that reflects a city's well-being may be publicly available, but they are often scattered or exist as a hodgepodge of formats, making it hard to compare one city or service to another. Even within a single city, such data is often published independently by individual agencies, making it hard to see the bigger picture. City Forward addresses these issues by bringing useful statistics and graphing tools together in one place, offering easier and more insightful analysis.

The new site was launched as part of IBM's 2000s anniversary celebration. That event seeks to highlight how the company's corporate social responsibility projects have helped develop economies around the world.

Since 2005, the company said, more than 250,000 IBM employees have shared more than 11 million hours of service, introducing communities in more than 70 countries. The corporate said time shared during the pro-rated last Christmas amounted to over a quarter of a billion US dollars.

Education, healthcare on top of HP's mind

By Raquel P. Gomez

HP Pocket Whiteboard

LEADING PC supplier HP is keen on expanding its product lines to cover healthcare, education, travel and digital media and entertainment by offering end-to-end solutions that have been tailored to fit the needs of these sectors.

More than just IT products, the new portfolio of commercial solutions that HP unveiled recently include hardware, software and peripherals. These products will enable people in these sectors to access information and connect with each other easily. The new product lines are more value-added features that particularly suit the environment where these people work.

For example, HP's solutions for the health industry include a medical cart solution which is built around with an HP notebook and a "mobilable" keyboard and mouse that can be worked in scrubs, apart from having an anti-bacterial surface.

A classroom solution is the HP Education 2000 Thin Client, which allows 30 students to share the power of a single PC thereby decreasing the number of physical PCs needed in a classroom.

The HP Pocket Whiteboard, which is currently still a digital pen, turns any surface as well into a digital white board and can project a diagonal work space up to ten feet.

The HP Classroom Manager software empowers teachers to monitor what their students are each while improving collaboration by pushing content to notebooks and desktops in the classroom.

According to Billy Tan of HP's personal systems group (PSG), the company has shifted its marketing efforts to avoid making a one-size-fits-all approach because it knows that they already have access to solutions to their particular needs. These customers simply just want for the hardware to be developed.

"It's no long[er] about how big the storage ... but rather the solution is. How will these products help the [customer] ..." Tan said.

Tan also announced the launch of HP's new Pro 3000 Series business desktop PC, which is made of recycled plastic and features a sleek design.

The 14-inch HP EliteBook 8460p features Intel technology, a choice of performance discrete graphics, and an ensuring 11-hour battery power.

HP is also offering an assortment of POS (point of sale) products bundled with software for retail use. Its profit energy saving PCs, called Thin Client for banking use, and digital signage products, which include a 23.9-inch LED-backlit LCD monitor.

ELITEBook 8460p

Silicon Valley firm takes rough edges out of WiFi

#ZTE WiFi technology it will be easier for telecommunications firms to roll out broadband Internet services in remote and congested areas of the country, according to Silicon Valley-based Internet networking [illegible] Packet Wireless.

Industry experts and investors should take a look at WiFi—short for wireless fidelity—technology to bring broadband services to households, instead of rolling out expensive cables or developing new technologies, like wireless high-speed data connection services (Internet).

WiFi has suffered a dent to its image for being unreliable and having limited scope. Most people believe that WiFi may not be used anywhere else but to loosen or offer charges.

"The biggest misconception that people have about WiFi is that it is unreliable and inconsistent. We have removed those weaknesses," said Bill Stavrakis, Packet Wireless regional director of sales for the Asia Pacific region.

The problems with the technology used in most WiFi routers in the market today is that they work like radio transmitters, broadcasting signals that devices will have to pick up, Stavrakis said.

He explained that Packet technology did not aim to replace fiber optic networks in providing high-speed broadband services. Instead, Packet products can be used to bring good quality Internet services to offices of users who either have little or no connectivity at all.

The problem, Stavrakis said, was that unlike broadcast radio or television, Internet connection is a two-way service—offices must receive data and transmit it, or not enough that a person's mobile device can "hear" WiFi signals.

"What's important is that a WiFi router can also 'hear' you," Pearson explained. Packet Wireless' have been designed with that in mind, he added.

Packet WiFi technology is currently being used in 14 malls, allowing shoppers to stay connected to the web on their mobile phones even as they walk around. Broadband Internet is also available.

Prospect developer Filinvest has also expressed interest in deploying Packet technology to provide Internet connectivity to residents of its residential condominium projects.

Packet technology has also been used abroad as a cheaper alternative to bring reliable wireless Internet to rather remote areas, for instance, in India, [illegible] Packet WiFi to handle to create the world's largest wireless broadband network covering 375,000 subscribers.

"We'd like to say that we took the 'cord' out of WiFi," Pearson said.

Paolo C. Montecillo

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Mövenpick makes big move to PH

Swiss group takes over management of upscale Mactan hotel

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

MÖVENPICK is not a familiar hotel and resort brand to most Filipinos, save for those who have lived or traveled extensively in Europe and the Middle East.

But that's about to change with the entry into the Philippines of Switzerland-based Mövenpick Hotels and Resorts, which has officially taken over the management of a hotel in Mactan, Cebu now named Mövenpick Resort and Spa.

The Cebu property is the first in the Philippines of the upscale hotel management company which is aggressively expanding its presence in the fast-growing Asia-Pacific region.

In a statement, Jean Gabriel Pitra, president and CEO of Mövenpick Hotels and Resorts, said: "We are very excited about our arrival in the Philippines. It is a significant milestone for Mövenpick Hotels and Resorts as it marks our 100th signed hotel in Asia."

According to Helena Ganiberg, Mövenpick director for business development and hotels' general manager of Mövenpick Resort and Spa Cebu, Mövenpick plans to make an immediate impact on the market by offering visitors a new type of service-style premium outing for guests and clients at its core.

Ganiberger also said in the briefing had noted that there was mixed demand in Cebu for upscale services and unique food and beverage offerings that Mövenpick Resort and Spa, owned by Glion-based International Investment Corp., can provide.

"Food and beverage are what Mövenpick has always been known for and the market can expect something special to come out of the hotel in the coming months," said veteran hotelier Ganiberger, who took over the Mövenpick portfolio after retiring from the Mandarin Oriental in Manila.

The 246-room hotel used to be managed by the Hilton group of the United States, but the contract was "peacefully and mutually" terminated after a little over five years, thus paving the way for the takeover.

MÖVENPICK Resort & Spa Cebu

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ePLDT's VITRO now a green data center

1ST Philippine data center to receive ISO 14001:2004 certification

Achieving an ISO 14001:2004 Environmental Management System standard certification distinguishes VITRO as a green data center that provides world class services while employing environmentally conscious and sound means.

Photo above (left-R) Lt. ePLDT President and CEO, and Dave Rivera, ePLDT Vice President for Data Center Operations (5th and 5th from right, respectively) with Paul Hagenberg, BSI Registrars, Inc. General Manager (2nd from right) during the formal awarding of the certification, held at the ePLDT head office. Also present were ePLDT executives (from left) Eugene Lorenzo, Head, Facilities Management; Helen Khalil, Head, Logistics and Administrative Services; Ferdi, Vice President for Sales and Marketing; Eduardo Quintyne, Jr., Head, Integrated Helpdesk Operations; and Isabelle Domingo, Jr., Head, Customer Support

For ePLDT, intelligent use of energy leads to a greener future

By Thiah rose Gadiño

ePLDT president and chief executive officer Isidro C. Lo

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BUSINESS Monday

First steps toward paradigm shift

DEAR DEPEND

How would we react to a doctor who rudely cuts into our line to overtake us?

What action do we take when we exchange the silent treatment with our spouse, parent, boss or peer in unresolved disagreement?

Or how would we respond when our company has been losing people, losing customers, losing money? Or, losing icon of it?

If we were to succeed in life, we must have a way to answer such questions.

We cannot leave our answers to the winds of the sea. We need a reliable rudder to maneuver our way through the ruthlessness. That rudder we call paradigm shifting.

If paradigm shifting is so important, how does one go about it?

There are 7 steps to paradigm shifting. In this article, we will tackle the first 3 steps.

Step 1: Be humble

Wait, be humble.

Know that we make mistakes, we can go very wrong and we can indeed fool ourselves.

Humility enables us to touch base with reality, to accept the truth about ourselves and the people around us.

A man who is liberated with the spirit of humility is open to advice for reminders, to seek help from others, to listen.

Humility enables us to examine the root causes of our business issues.

Humility also allows us to put wealth in proper perspective, to give thanks to where thanks are due and to look beyond our selfish interests.

If Sam Walton of Wal-Mart had thought that he did not need to improve himself, then Wal-Mart would never have grown to become the No. 1 company in the world. In 2010, beating Royal Dutch Shell, Exxon Mobil, GE and PetroChina.

Is his own words

Here are words from Sam Walton's autobiography:

"I don't the point: the bigger Wal-Mart gets, the more essential it is that we think small. Because that's exactly how we have become a huge corporation—by not acting like one.

"When we're thinking small, that's another thing we're always on the lookout for: big egos. We don't have to have a small ego to work here, but you'd better know how to make it look small, or you might wind up in trouble."

By being humble, we allow the next step to happen.

Step 2: The big-picture picture

Look at the bigger picture. How?

First, use understanding reality can change response by enlarging the coverage of our views, our lens open and our geographical boundaries, sometimes to possible consequences.

Second, by placing ourselves in the shoes of others, by speaking their language, by being sensitive to their needs.

Third, looking at the bigger picture avoids discussing facts from opinions, setting opinions aside in favor of facts, taking action on the basis of facts.

Fourth, looking at the bigger picture involves the application of new technologies and the search for higher levels of expertise.

What happens when we look at the bigger picture?

We transcend narrow points of view, limited time spans, selfishness and prejudice. We also tear down walls that divide people and break the barriers to what we can do.

With our skill on expanding bigger pictures, we can perform the next step to paradigm shifting.

Step 3: Adopt good attitudes

Third, adopt good attitudes rather negative attitudes in resolving problems and settling issues.

If we give in to our inclinations to fight each other, to be selfish and greedy and envious, there are still ends up fighting, shouting, selfish, greedy and envious of each other. Then we will truly be poor.

Overcome negative attitude?

In establishing relations with people, promote love, patience and generosity. Kindness, generosity, faithfulness, humility and self-control! Add these two: joy and peace. Then we can grow together, through one another.

We can build up material wealth only on the foundations of good attitudes—the moving force, the unseen mind, the power of the spirit.

Tell me, how successful can we be if we're swallowed by the spirit of anger, pride, envy, lust, self-indulgence, greed and fear? How long will we endure?

Stephen, we adopt the spirit of good attitudes not because it's the nice thing to do. We adopt it because it works.

From Sam Walton

Here are thoughts from Sam Walton on stock market valuation, the measure by which the world evaluates how wealthy a company is growing.

He speaks about his customers, associates, the town, the family and small town folks.

These thoughts will show how humility and the bigger picture inspire him. See from these words how the spirit of love, generosity, kindness, faithfulness influenced his relations with people and what value he puts to people.

"What's really worried me over the years is not our stock price, but that we might someday fail to take care of our customers, or that our managers might fail to motivate and take care of our associates. I also was worried that we might lose the team concept, or fail to keep the family concept visible and authentic and meaningful to our folks as we grow."

"We wouldn't care less about what is forecast or what the market says we ought to do. If we listened very seriously to that sort of stuff, we never would have gone into small towns the way we did in the first place."

What a radical paradigm shift! What a rudder that enables Wal-Mart to become No. 1 in its successors!

Stephen, we can have that rudder too with the first 3 steps of paradigm shifting!

TED REY

(The article reflects the personal opinion of the author and not the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines. The writer is an entrepreneur, consultant and author of the books "The Three Ps Change Blast, Fifty Are We Ist Ones?" and "The Philippine Economy: Do Our Leaders Have A Clue?" Feedback at mapdigi-fe@mas.com.ph. For previous articles, please visit map.org.ph.)

MAPping THE FUTURE

Aurelio D. Angeles

Mövenpick makes big move to PH

From page B1 »

of Mövenpick Hotels and Resorts, which struck a 10-year management contract with Oktoconsult International, chaired by Manuel Ozmeña.

Said Ozmeña: "We are delighted to have joined hands with Mövenpick Hotels and Resorts, a highly regarded international hotel and management company. We look forward to a successful collaboration and to further position our resort as a preferred leisure destination within the Philippines and Asia."

To complete the management transition, Ozmeña said that the property group has approved a budget of at least P100 million to renovate the hotel and give it more of the Mövenpick look and feel.

He said in the briefing that the bulk of the budget will go into the renovation of the lobby "to improve the arrival experience", repainting of the exterior and the redesign of the entire guest and suites bathroom areas.

"We want to give the hotel more of a resort feel and we also need to add function rooms to cater to the meetings, incentives, conventions and exhibitions market," said Ozmeña.

He did not specify when the renovation will be completed, merely saying that some done. Mövenpick Resort and Spa Boracay is a much better position to attract more guests from here and abroad.

"We call this partnership with Mövenpick the relaunch of the hotel," he added.

Manhattan Garden City named a sustainable project

Manhattan Garden City was identified as one of Megaworld Corporation's sustainable township projects during the 1st Sustainable Building Technology Conference held on November 11-12 at the SMX Convention Center.

According to Megaworld's Sustainability consultant, Edmond Manalo, township developments like Manhattan Garden City are the perfect models for sustainable land use planning. Compact townships promote "densification over sprawl" and transportation-connectivity. Residents are encouraged to walk from the home to the mall or office.

Manhattan Garden City, located at the Ayala Center, offers an abundance of public transport options from buses, taxis to train lines. It is the only point in the metro where the LRT2 and MRT3 train lines converge, thus making any part of the metro from the north, south, east and west accessible within minutes.

Since this urban enclave will encourage residents to live, work, play and shop within the community, they are forecasted to consume less electricity and water, buy a lesser quantity of items and discard less trash and spend far less time in automobiles. With the train lines as an option for transport, they will significantly contribute to lessening greenhouse gas emissions, according to Manalo.

Manhattan Garden City is a joint venture project between the Ayala Group and Megaworld, the country's #1 developer of residential condominiums for the mid- and upper-income market.

"The great aspect of Manhattan Garden City also makes it a sustainable project. 60% of the total land area is dedicated to greeneries. Sky gardens at the upper four floors of every tower of our new phase, Manhattan Heights, will give residents a refreshing option to unwind high up the metro's rooftops," Megaworld Central Properties Inc. President Anthony Charlemagne Yu declared.

More than 20 different amenities—such as a lap pool and kiddie pool, skylights and jogging paths – like exotic tropical landscaping at the fourth floor podium level of Manhattan Garden City. The podium level also hosts a 125-meter walkway through which residents can reach the other phases as well as the train stations via Gateway Mall for LRT2 and Farmers Plaza for the MRT line.

"Township living in a special place like Manhattan Garden City points the way to a sustainable future. You can live, work, shop and play here everyday of your life with the entire family," Yu concluded.

To inspect the benefits of living at Manhattan Garden City, please call 816-2333 or visit the showroom at the 3rd level of Gateway Mall.

Residents will enjoy the live-work-play-shop lifestyle on offer at Manhattan Garden City

Manhattan Garden City's one of the township projects of Megaworld Corporation that promote sustainability

Manhattan Garden City is the only transit-oriented development that is linked to both LRT2 and MRT3 train lines.

LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

Bauta Generics THE GENERICS PHARMACY THE BIGGEST DRUGSTORE CHAIN 1000 BRANCHES NATIONWIDE

Ronald Ventura's tour-de-force work sells for $1.1M at Sotheby's, setting new world record

But are the international and regional auction houses driving up prices by Filipino contemporary artists, creating distortion and fostering speculation and commercialism?

By Lito B. Zulueta

A LARGE painting by Filipino contemporary artist Ronald Ventura was the star of the Sotheby's Modern and Contemporary Southeast Asian Paintings auction last April 4 in Hong Kong, selling for HK$8,420,000, or P46.9 million, after fierce bidding.

Works by other young Filipino contemporary artists such as Jon Jayle and Isidro Bartolome also sold well.

MAIN STORY, PAGE 11

THE COUNTRY'S FIRST RESIDENTIAL EDEN

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Ronald Ventura's tour-de-force work sells for $1.1M at Sotheby's, setting new world record

From page C1

Ventura's painting, "Graveground," is a graphite, oil and acrylic piece on canvas, measuring 60 inches by 155 and three-fourth inches, or nearly four meters long.

The painting, which has been described as "provocative," combines hyperrealism and graffiti and shows in dynamic fashion horses in violent and bloody clashable, apparently in the midst of a raging battle. All around them are gothic images that seem to underscore the brutality of war: here the horses, masked with helmets, appears, the entire canvas is in monochromatic gray.

But the Sotheby's catalogue describes the work as a commentary on art:

"[The controversial mash up of hyper-realism and graffiti confronts viewers on how art should be. Two powerful forces—a multitude, to be precise—represented by horses in mid-stride, go into opposite directions, bearing a big gray empty lot of possibilities where nothing is real and everything is possible. Who will win the battle, horse by? Is the chaos and the void lying in between still art? Therein lies the mystery for the viewers, all in Ronald Ventura's nihilistic playground."

According to Rob Flitt Chong, Sotheby's head of Southeast Asian paintings, bidding opened at HK$600,000 with 15 bidders battling it out. After around 50 furious bids, "Graveground" eventually sold as an "astonishing" US$1.1 million, which was over 24 times its original "high" estimate, according to Sotheby's.

The winning bid was the highest for Sotheby's Contemporary Southeast Asian Painting auction.

The previous record was achieved in October 2008 when I Nyoman Masriadi's "The Man Feels Bored (The Final Round)" sold for HK$7,920,000/US$1,008,720).

Ventura's feat appears to confirm not only his status as the biggest selling Filipino artist in the region, but also the growing appetite for contemporary art in the region.

Last June, in the Christie's Southeast Asian auction in Hong Kong, Geraldine Javier's oil on canvas, "Ella Amo! Aya...mischievous 3: Fin Correspondiente (For She Loved Fiercely And Died In Well Loved)," was bidded out for HK$1,440,000, 30 times more than the original low estimate.

The biggest seller in the entire auction was "Snake Dance" (1977), by Indonesian master Hendra Gunawan (1918-1983), selling for HK$16,368,000 (US2.094 million), or more than seven times its high estimate.

Jayis, Barriosgaistra

Born in 1973, Ventura took up Painting at the School of Fine Arts of the University of Santo Tomas. Last November, his "Surreal Live" (2009), was sold by Sotheby's for HK$2.2 mill. lion (US$328,000)...nine times its original estimate.

In the last Sotheby's auction, also doing well was another young Filipino artist, Italo, whose "I Sing for Also" fetched HK$270,000 (original estimate was HK$60,000).

Also doing well was Barriosgaistra (born 1976), Ventura's former school mate at UST. Barriosgaistra's "Rom around Your Love," an acrylic-and-oil piece, features one of the artist's celebrated reinventions of the portrait genre.

Other Filipino artists whose works were sold at the auction include Ronald Carnegal, Lenard Parsi, Kiko Escoreo, Jenet Sallaorina, Rodel Tapaya, Marina Cruz, Arturo Sanchez, Nona Garcia, Emilio B. Dalena, MM Yu, Rene Navarrosa and the late Imelda Olmedo.

Sotheby's Hong Kong said April 6's was its highest ever result for an auction of modern and contemporary Southeast Asian Art. Total sales were HK$198 million (US1.8 million), which was triple the house's pseudo estimate of HK$66 million (61.6 million).

But with both Sotheby's and Christie's having a field day in auctioning off works by new Southeast Asian artists, and with regional auction houses doing and making great business, there are fears that an artificial market is being created that may undermine the Philippine art market in. sell.

Numerous artists such as Ventura and Javier are now making brave, bold...and new...works especially for the auction houses abroad, where they get astronomical prices, there has been anxiety whether Philippine art lovers and collectors, especially those just starting their collections, could afford the works of emerging artists.

The high prices for the works of the young artists in auctions appear to create distortions, unnecessarily inflating their prices. In other words, young Filipino artists achieving global renown and global prices for their works have made their art unaffordable to fellow-Filipinos, save, of course, for the big holdens and the big players. Philippine art may reap the wages of globalization.

That, perhaps, is the gray area of Ventura's "Graveground". The shame left by the inscrutable and competition in the global art market may mean the sheer vacuity of art for art's sake, that is, art for the auction market's sake.

So when the dust settles after Philippine art was beaten such as Ventura's and Javier's fabulous works have long left to be soaked in some dark art collector's hoard or some very museum's anthology, the gnawing void that will be left to the nihilism of the global art world.

QUEENF Nelson

ROSE Mallion and the "Hagay" kids

Foundation in honor of Joey Velasco launched

Text and photos by Dante B. Mendiz
Correspondent

FAMILY, FRIENDS and admirers of Joey Velasco recently gathered for a night of reminiscences at Club Filipino in San Juan where they launched in the memory of the late artist the Artesanya Center for Visual Arts Education.

Evidently, the room was filled with people from different aspects of Velasco's life, all of whom said they contributed to be inspired by the religious artist.

Velasco was the painter of the mural "Hagay ng Pag-asa" in which Jesus Christ is depicted as breaking bread with street children. He also painted other works in the same realist vein, some of them depicting the agrarian problem faced by poor farmers in the countryside.

His friends and supporters said Velasco's depiction of human suffering rooted into the Filipino social existence had awakened in them a sense of faith and a sense of social action in search for the poor.

On one side of the room were the people from Gawad Kalinga, including founder Tony Meloto, and some members from the Dalian, Texas, chapter of the ecu-cul-bonding movement who flew in just for the event. On the other side are friends and family of Velasco as well as the kids from the "Hagay" painting.

Velasco's wife Queeny and her husband had always wanted to reach out to those in need. Velasco, while still alive, always gave inspiration to the value of life and making the most out of it no matter how small the act may be, she said.

The establishment of Artesanya aims to make sure that the legacy and inspiration of Velasco is kept alive, she added.

The center will showcase and preserve the works of Velasco. But more than that, Queeny said, Artesanya is a nonprofit institution in the service of society and of its development.

The foundation's work includes the acquisition of mentally- conscious religious artworks, their conservation, communication, and exhibition...for purposes of study, education and enjoyment, the foundation leaders said.

The foundation will also hold exhibits, summer camps, art trips and classes. Projects aim to include Color for Kids, Creation for capacities, Drawing to Drawing, Art Peraha maintain, and Contemporary Drawing for Teens.

The center is at 32 Malvar St., West Fairview, Quezon City, tel. (02) 3021. Pledges of support are accepted by the foundation. Cash and checks may be sent to Maria Queeny Sergio Velasco, UTF Joey Velasco Foundation, Metrobank Fairview Branch, Account #241-3-24135545-2.

For further information, call 4287208, 9368125, e-mail joeyvelascofoundation@yahoo.com.

KIM dalawa, Bulip Aquino Cruz and Tony Meloto

ALEXANDER Lucero

JESS Lorenzo

'Kristo' exhibitions to open in Malolos and Manila

THE "KRISTO" exhibits in Malolos, Bulacan, were pioneered by artist Salvador Ching in 2005 as part of his private initiative to bring the nationally involved Filipino artists in the Lenten art show that featured works tackling the passion and suffering of Christ.

In 2006, Bulan Rebillar of Arteni brought the Lenten art show to Manila for the first time. It then became a highly lauded gathering of emergent and established visual artists. It came to be known as "Kristo Manila."

This year, the Kristo presentation in Malolos is dubbed "Ang Alay" while in Manila counterpart, now on its sixth year, harness on selflessness and is titled "The Offering."

Over 80 artists are joining the show in Malolos. Participating artists in "Kristo Manila" are Leonard Aguinaldo, Hermes Alegre, Conrad S. Antolo, Pelli Artemio, Mark Arzaga, Amon Subas, London-based artist Winnie Belen, Franklin Cailo, Ben Cinco, Dawn Cupsin, Salvador Ching, Salvador Contreras, Harley Del Rosario, Anna de Leon, Robert Demegio, Ferdinand Dudoleo, Cristino Flaneo, Vladimir Gonzaga, Anne Gotuzzo, Cathy Lazaro, Dante Lemos, Noelito Mirador, Agung Maganda, Francisco Nacion, Noel Obsima, Wilfredo Ofilanian Jr., Danny Pangan, Alf Arwen Penaloc, Oriel Reyes, Jed Sarmiento, Anel Sebastian, Ojing Sebios, Jenelle Tan, Ben Turbing, Isal, Nelina Tayona, Jennifer Tejido, Migo Villanueva, Orly Yson, and Dingger Zulueta.

Once more, a multitude of styles are showcased. Prime Bisbe's deviation: Sorta his round women, Mark Arzaga's abstract take on faith, Jo Ferry Del Rosario and Noel Obsima's self-reminders on sacrifice and giving, each viewer is sure to find a piece suited to their personal brand of contemplation.

"This is our way of using our talent to say tribute to the true Master and Creator. For years, even non-Catholics have joined the annual exhibits with their own interpretations of the life and passion of Jesus Christ," Ching said.

"Kristo" opens April 15 and will run for a month at Museo ng Bulacan in the Malolos capital.

"Kristo Manila" is slated April 11-30, at Looking for Juan (LAJ) Art Space (formerly UST Gallery) in Intramuros, Manila on Global City.

Part of the proceeds of "Kristo Manila 2011" will go to the Canvas art promotion group's ongoing initiative with the Global Giving Foundation to bring the Canvas children's books to public schools and children's hospitals throughout the Philippines.

For details regarding the exhibits, call 09151512; e-mail kristoplus@gmail.com.

For more information on how you can help the book donation drive, visit http://www.globalgiving.org/projects/give-books-to-3000-children-in-the-philippines/

BY JAPHI Cabaero

BY FARLEY Del Rosario

BY MARK Arzaga

Gerry Tan at Alliance Francaise

ALLIANCE Francaise de Manila's Total Gallery is presenting "New Works," a solo exhibition of painter and mixed-media artist Gerardo Tan, on April 1-28.

Tan continues his exploration on issues of representation through collages and collage based paintings wherein disparate images appropriated from exhibit invitations and art magazines are combined to create a complex matrix of collusion between the abstract and the familiar, painted and printed matter, geometric and organic forms, the real and the artificial. By using preexisting im-

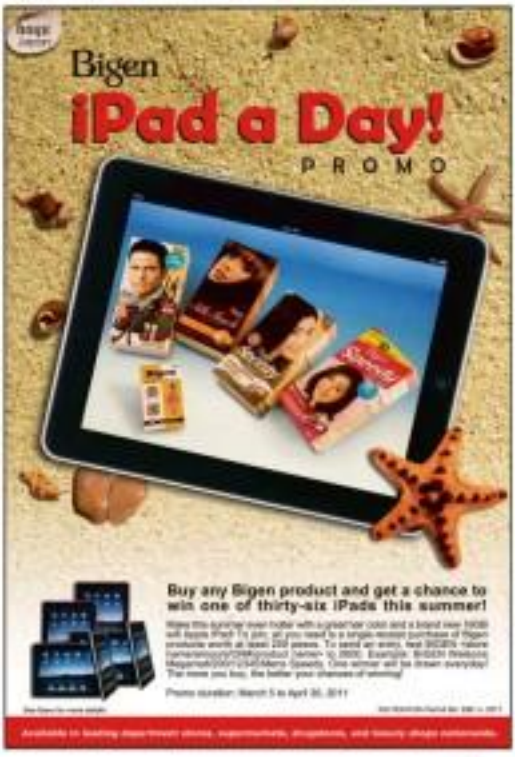
ages, usually those depicting other artists' works, Tan endeavors existing media work and to reevaluate the distinction of images while probing concepts of originality and personal style.

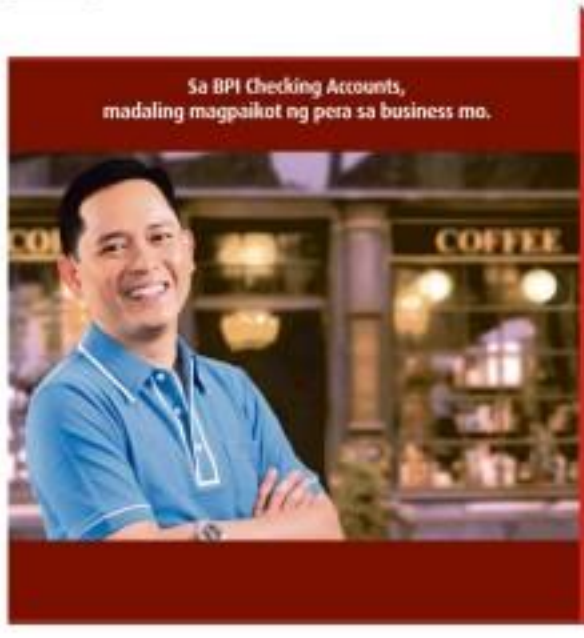
Given his conceptual background, he treats the surface of his paintings as an arena where meanings and styles are simultaneously made, subverted and consumed.

Gerardo Tan has participated in various local and international exhibitions. He has had 34 solo exhibitions to date. He was a '12 Artists Awardee in 1988 and a Fulbright Fellow in Painting at the State University of New York at Buffalo in 1990-1991. His most recent group exhibitions include Blind Field: Photography and Place in Silhouette, Gallery Maria, Inverness of the Mind at the Ateneo Art Gallery, and Research of Historicism: Doing Time on Filipino Time at the Pinto Museum. Both in 2010.

New Works opens with an artist's reception from 6:30 p.m.-9 p.m. on April 5, at the Total Gallery of the Alliance Francaise de Manila, Alliance Francaise de Manille has 2089 Nicanor Garcia St. formerly Bayan Ni Bel-Air 2, Makati.

ARTICLES 1, 2 and 12





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LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

Shortsighted tourism developments ruining heritage

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon

TRAVEL is a great way to step outside the routine of our everyday lives.

We go abroad to experience heritage of other peoples, immerse ourselves in their landscapes and historic towns, find ourselves in unfamiliar surroundings, meet the locals, hear unfamiliar languages, and leave the confines of our comfort zone to [illegible] our own.

And it is exactly for these same reasons many come to the Philippines, to experience our country, our heritage, and most importantly, to experience the Filipino.

Since heritage is a large part of the tourist experience, it is an important resource that must be protected so it does not vanish but will still be available for tourists to enjoy.

Locals should learn from their heritage, an untapped source of additional income generation.

Being a nonrenewable resource, heritage must be used sustainably to prevent it from running out.

Low-impact tourism is one solution to opening up heritage as an income-generating resource. A successful example is seen in the Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park, a World Heritage property.

Tourists are allowed only into the dozen protected hectares of the park, but, to protect the forest from human damage, visitors must stay on a raised wooden walkway that traverses the forest.

Visitors know exactly where their limits are but they do not feel shoved out of the forest experience; on the contrary, the heightened encounter with nature reinforces lessons of sustainability and long-term

(CONTINUED) C2

Behind the scenes at a Rupert Jacinto shoot

From the socialite who got drunk and tripped, to Chatit Singson's tiger and PVR in a bad mood—the renowned portraitist, who's launching a new book, has seen it all

By Sasha Lim Sy

IT ONLY takes a moment to take a good picture, but for a photographer like Rupert Jacinto, that moment can stretch up to two hours.

A session with the internationally recognized portrait photographer, whose portfolio includes Rockefeller, a Trump, and other renowned personalities, takes that long, plus an extra hour of setting up and prepping. It's enough time for him to capture what he calls "the wrinkles" of his model.

Jacinto's photographs are simple—very simple, in fact, that they're devoid of any contrived "smoldersque" posing or somber-faced pouting.

"The signature of a Jacinto portrait is the elegance—the subjects are in formal clothes, formal poses," Jacinto said. "Every

(CONTINUED) C2

Behind the scenes at a Rupert Jacinto shoot

From page D1

doing...symmetry, composition, balance, color—to put together into a beautiful picture."

His models are posed, preserving only their best angles. As for, there's only one photo on record that actually shows movement—former Binibining Marquez in a swishy white skirt, a big smile on her face with her leg gracefully extended forward, a pose she herself requested.

Personable

"The So. I quarrel a photographer should have is to be personable," he advised. "You have to know how to gauge the person, the character, and go around it."

Not all models can be in a cooperative mood. Once, he recalled, former President Fidel Ramos arrived at the scheduled shoot disgruntled. "He was on a bad mood. He was thrilled after so many appointments."

Turning on his naturally bubbly personality, Jacinto conversed with him and kept him at ease. In the final photograph, the normally stern-looking president had a small but pleasant smile on his face. "It could have been better, but..." Jacinto sighed. He also managed to land two years ago, with then President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

To make his models feel at home, he accompanies them at the start of every shoot, saying how nice their outfits look, and asks them questions to help get settled. "You just have to be yourself, talk to them and once make their comments," he said.

Long before top model-turned-host Tyra Banks coined the term "smize" or "smiling with your eyes," Jacinto has been asking this of his clients. "I always say, 'Let your eyes smile.'"

This request would always be met with disbelief. But he claims his clients can do it. "I tell them to keep their mouths closed. [2]o do by little, I'll say, 'Now give me a 20-percent smile, a 30-percent smile.'" This progresses until the models start laughing and the shot becomes more candid and enjoyable.

Mindset

More than anything else, Jacinto does particular to photos, especially his models. "In my type of assignment, everybody wants to look beautiful," he said, adding that this was why he welcomed the advent of Photoshop.

He has gotten requests from his clients to remove unusual certain jewelry or objects, he said, chuckling. The extent of his photo-editing ends at taking out wrinkles and oily flows.

However, for his latest book, "Fearless Icons II," Jacinto said they'd gone as far as editing the backdrops.

It's difficult for Jacinto to point out favorite shoots or talk about style and technique. It's as if taking photographs has become so natural, he no longer thinks about it.

When thinking who his favorite clients was, he drummed his fingers on his wine glass as he leafed through 20 years of photos. Internationally, if he had to choose, it would be New York socialite Nina Griscom, whom he described as "a photographer's dream."

Locally, and apart from his wife, it was his late friend Priscilla Meirs. "She was so easy to take a lady, and to me that's very important when I want to get a good picture."

His favorite portrait is one of Gladys Reyes-Zobel, Enzo Pelaez Recalde, who traveled in diapers in advance. The elderly socialite, to her long-extravagant groan...ed down, naturally looked sideways, tilted her head upward, and that was the shot. "It was beautiful," Jacinto said.

He does not have any preference between local and international personalities. "The only difference is that if Filipinos like to have more costume changes," he said, laughing.

38 years

Three decades later, Jacinto has had plenty of memories, though nothing can radical or otherworldly. "We've had accidents like equipment falling down, but that's normal."

He took his copy of "A Celebration of the Filipino Persons of an Era," his coffee table book, and browsed through the pages. He stopped at a photo of Miriam Defensor Santiago in a ball constructed in the 1980s and said "This book really captures the heritage, a different time."

As Ferdinan Cicmeleo's photos, he explained, "She told me she wanted something very casual, so I allowed this." Dimerlin was sitting on the floor, her feet bare, a bright smile on her face.

He pointed out dancers, singers, athletes, businessmen, politicos...ladies every now and then, as if remembering something.

Finally he turned the cover over and smiled triumphantly. "I had one model who had me much time doing the shoot and actually ripped," a wide smile on himself, he joked that the most unforgettable shoots were always the ones that served good wine.

Jacinto occasionally went back to his shoots for "Fearless II," his fifth book, the furthest in his memory Cec Church Burgess had requested to pose with his baby "baby" in a flower vase at lunch. Jacinto's team was on edge around the unforeseen pet.

For his share of the annual fare, eventstylist Anjun Abbasi brought a horse to his client. "I client with Anjun it always out of the ordinary," Jacinto said. For "Fearless II," both Abbasi and his horse were elaborately decked in the gold costumes by jewelry designer.

Jacinto was also fortunate enough to shoot Spanish royalty through the coronation of good friend, internationally renowned painter Betsy Westendorp, whose paintings have been featured several times in Jacinto's photographs.

Some of his absolute favorites (he said, because, fabulous, or "whatever," in his parlance). A cancer survivor who wanted nothing more than to be included in his new book had approached him. It wasn't new, he's featured a similar subject before, and for Jacinto, such inclusions are the best gratification.

"That's the biggest pleasure, that they look for this dream and they want to have it," he said, practically summarizing his entire career.

"Fearless II" will be launched April 12, 6 p.m., at the Bar Gallery, The Peninsula Manila.

PRINCESS JANINE of Bourbon-Two Sicilies, Duchess of Calabria, in Manila with Rupert Jacinto and wife Tina

PICE President Jaycinto Borja

JOSEPHINE Pinto

SON CHAVIT Singco (left) Junjun Abbasi (bottom)

Shortsighted tourism developments . . .

From page D1

there must be limits to entry into the [area] so human impact is maintained at a level that will not deplete the delicate balance of nature.

The Puerto Princesa example shows that preserving resources sustainably, whether natural or cultural, does not exclude their enjoyment by visitors.

Sad examples

There are sad examples of ruined heritage because of unrestrained tourism-driven development, proof that once heritage vanishes it can never be brought back.

Many travelers have been overdeveloped, hauled to the museum with hotels and other facilities with little thought given to master planning or tourism carrying capacity. There's a memorial sustainability, to the point of endangering nature through excessive pollution.

Instead of the local culture defining uniqueness for the location, as the beaches in Bali do, it is the local culture that is subsumed into the development's branch culture, losing all national identity forever.

How many beautiful natural vistas, such as Tagaytay and Baguio, have been blocked from public view by barely built roadside malls mostly housing food and restaurants? That's destroying the very heritage resource that provides local livelihood.

Regulated development is the key. To achieve this, natural and cultural heritage groups should work together with the local and national governments, NCCA, NHCP, DENR, DOT, DPWH, and, more importantly, with the local community since it is their heritage to begin with.

Before an answer of the intercommunity that exists among these areas of responsibility, but could that be the Philippine ethos?

If a community feels it has a heritage site it would open for tourism, it is not just a matter of cleaning up the site and putting out the "Welcome" sign.

An intervention measure in place to conserve the heritage, and are those measures compatible with specifics from national agencies on conditions of the road leading to the site? Should it be repaired by either local or national government?

Is there a standard above destruction? Being part of a circuit of destinations increases the number of visitors, as proven by a group of restaurants and hotel businesses who joined up with local artisans in the Legazpi Queen's area to create the highly successful Bicol Food Trail and food tours elsewhere.

It's a wonderful situation to develop [and] many have a chance to it. If not done sustainably as to tourism to source is not displaced, then the tourism resource, be it a forest, sea [or] hill, church or old house, degrades also to time from abuse and stops being a source of additional income.

A community based ecotourism, done in a sustainable manner as in the Visayas Sol and Bagac province examples, is a proven Philippine phenomenon.

It's a country in naturally and culturally rich as this, the question often asked is: are heritage and tourism incompatible? For the answer as for a resounding "no," all actions have to work in concert.

E-mail the author at [redacted]@gmail.com.

COOLIE Manila's bustling Quiapo be a facet of local culture that must be sustained and encouraged

HERITAGE yet to get room it deserves in this landmark San Juan mansion that's now the successful Café Trader restaurant

SALINGOY Art Group members Dax Cabiaro, Wilson Belarmino, Harold Gomez, Richard Perez, Rommel Perez, Pancho Plano, Fr. Nonilon Buenzan, Mary Peters, Gerry Mesina, Lucy Pelida, Herminl Abrahanbre, Dan Encinas, Lea Shar and Marivic Gomez

Salingoy art group holds exhibit at Naga seminary

ORIGINS at the Holy Rosary Minor Seminary in Naga is the exhibit "Salingoyan 2011" until April 30. Participated in by 18 Bicol artists headed by "2nd Onjello-San Bicol Awardee" Sandro Pisano, the exhibit features representational renditions of different subjects like religion, culture and life, collectively.

"Salingoy" in Bicol means "to look back." Salingoy Art Group was formed on Dec. 30, 2000 as the most distance Bicol Arts Gallery with Pancho Plano as one of the founding members. The other members now are Rosey Abronica, Jeffrey Agustin, Hermel Alabastro, Wilson Belarmino, Dax Cabiaro, Anne Dalora, Lenore Tadiea, Dar Encinas, Fernando Flores, Harold Gomez, Marivic Gomez, Jasmin Rebesa, Richard Perez, Rommel Perez, Sicki Rayala, Peter Stellano, Jay Sto. Maria and Fr. A. Buenzan Jr.

After 11 years, Salingoy Art Group once again emerges renewed, revitalized and stronger with 18 members armed with the spirit and the vision to carve a niche for themselves in the Bicol art scene and to represent Naga City as the ambassador of the visual arts in the Bicol Region and beyond.

Giving full support in this endeavor are Naga Mayor John Bongat and Vice Mayor Gabby Bordado who have chosen the Naga Sports Coliseum as a venue for future exhibits calling it Naga City Art Gallery.

Mimi Tecson and Wesley Valenzuela in joint show

MIMI TECSON and Wesley Valenzuela share their views and reminiscences of growing up in the metropolis in "Collective Memory" in Blanc Gallery.

The two artists are fond of animating objects and imagery related to pop culture.

The artists let in the collection convey their musings on their roots, religion and society. The pieces evoke their affectionate and queries on personal relationships, interests and issues awakening concerns.

Valenzuela's work combines painting and collage while incorporating symbolic juxtaposition of imagery from the past and present. Tecson, on the other hand, employs fetishism, where she makes use of common objects to imbue an emotional connection through her art.

"Collective Memory" opens April 15, 6 p.m., at Blanc Gallery, Unit 2E Crown Tower, 107 EV de la Costa Street, Salcedo Village, Makati. Call 0928-5279403, e-mail info@blanc.ph, visit www.blanc.ph.

Art and music linked in 'La Musique'

AT THE NEO-IMPRESSIVE intersection between art and music, 27 artists depict music and musicians in Galerie Joaquin and Galerie Francisco's "La Musique," at the Art Center, 6/F SM Megamall, running until April 24. Festival opening is on April 11, at 6:30 p.m.

The depiction of music and musicians in visual arts has a long heritage. In classical Greece, vases and urns showed musicians in genre scenes. Roman murals displayed festival scenes where the playing of instruments dominated the landscape. This tradition continued in Europe through the Renaissance and the Salon scenes of the 18th and 19th centuries. But it wasn't until the 1920s, when avant-garde artists such as Wassily Kandinsky, sought to articulate the boldness and passion of music and musicians into what can be termed as Visual Expression.

The artists of "La Musique" reasonably belong to this tradition. The various works on display have the commonality of passion and performance—almost as if seeking to translate a musician's soul into visual memory. In this art, the artist privileges the conversation; whereas a musical piece is limited by time, a painting of it is timeless.

Migs Villanueva expresses the innocence of youth via the simplicity of toy instruments. Small flutes and triangles easily serve as accessories that add stylistic renderings of his art, with pastel shades and light compositions.

Some of them choose to focus on the instrument themselves and their blending into human forms. This reflects the how musicians are their instruments as extensions of their own bodies.

Jennifer Bartolito takes a step back and introduces us to how musicians and audiences interact through his unique style of perpsilonism art. By constructing mass crowds of people to paint a room, he succeeds in demonstrating resonance with the subject matter.

Jomar Delluba sees music as an intensely personal experience. His works use metaphors to articulate the idea of musicians in his characteristically brilliant style.

Jerome Benitez reveals in his abstract figurines of the idyllic nature of the craft of music. Pablo has demonstrations of several facets of a figure, his works mold with the music as if it were the beginnings of a serenade.

Albert Lantoria explores the same nostalgic mindscape in works that vibrate with idyllic opulence—the old piano played by a pretty Maria Clara, for instance.

Eminent artist Mario Parial takes us a bit further, with his subject of a poise and his symbolics. His trademark whimsical style and bright, royal palette signifies the presence of an immense talent.

Sculptor Daniel de la Cruz presents four evocatively inspired pieces in support of this project.

Some artists, such as Edwin Tres Reyes, Jomar Delluba and Jeffrey Dalluhan pay homage to famous musicians. The likes of Jimmy Hendrix and John Lennon dominate their works, oozing with pop-art sensibilities. Others however demonstrate the Leonesian concept of "The Other" in works of widescreen, unmanned and, in the case of Dominador Lerrera, faceless musicians.

Additive Abes seeks to shake his duets among the followers of Primitivism with his abstract figurations and the child-artist Hannah Machella continues his whimsical style and optimism.

Call 7237410 or 7239253; visit www.galerie-joaquin.com.

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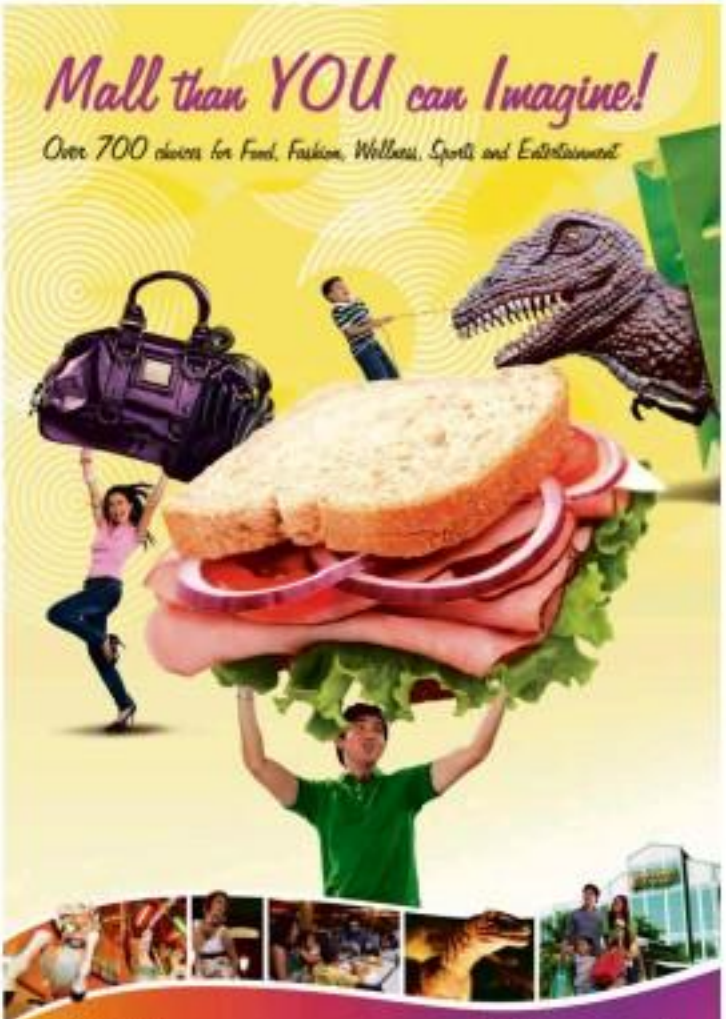

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VISUAL ARTS

Borlongan at Pinto

New paintings by Ginar Borlongan will be on view in "Kariyawan" in Pinto Art Gallery (1 Jacinta Madre St., Bandhanghiz Subdivision, Antipolo City; 02/697-1053) until April 27. The artist is known for his figurative and impressionist works which have continuously represented realities unfolding from Manila's urban sprawl, including figures from a landscape of despair with a quiet dignity. "Kariyawan" chronicles scenes captured from the artist's observations of life between Cavinte and Manila. The exhibition collects a variety of scenes from this transitory journey between the two places that have become the artist's home: rascal parade in the rice or coconut town, nightlife of nearby Subic Bay, scenes of threat and emotion's hawking cheap imported wares, drivers' lounge tucked away inside a massive mall. It will be curated by Poch B. Cases.

Pow Martinez at Magnet

"Sway: Listening Paintings" features big works by Pow Martinez is on view until May 7 in Magnet Gallery (Bellagio 2330 Aguirre Bldg., McKinley Hwy., Laguna Technopark, Canlubang, Calamba City; tel. 8552101, e-mail: info@magnetgalleries.com; www.magnetgalleries.com). The artist tackles the themes of "sex, violence, darkness, sadness, humor, weirdness and blandness." The exhibition will be on April 30, 6:30 p.m.

"GREEN Eye"

Dilla at Hiraya

"Dystopia," an exhibit by Isabel-artist Randolf C. Dilla, is on view April 29-May 15 in Hiraya Gallery (tel. 4210331; e-mail: hiraya@live.com.ph; www.hiraya.com). Dystopia is from ancient Greek words which means "bad place" or "bleak landscape." Dilla's figurative intrigue texture and expressionism with figures above through paintings in oil and acrylic and works on paper.

Gakara at Ayala

LArt on Dal Gallery is exhibiting the works of Carla Jang Kim, Stella Kim, Connie Quirino and Alfred Galura in Ayala Museum's Artist Space (2/F, Glorietta Wing, Ayala Museum, Makati; tel. 757-7488/519; http://lartondal-gallery.blogspot.com) until April 25. Carla Jang Kim and Stella Kim are not related but both have unique talent. Carla is an impressionist. Stella is a photographic realist and her art is "HD" or high-definition. Connie is studied drawing and painting at the Art Center of Pasadena in California and trained under Federico Aguilar Alcuaz, another influence is evident in her present works. Galura is one of the country's top water colorists.

CLOCKWISE from above, pieces by Carla Jang Kim, Connie Quirino and Alfred Galura

Lecture on historical photographs

"Our Visual History—Discovering the 19th and Early 20th Century Philippines through Photographs," a free lecture by John L. Silva, will be held April 12, 5:30 p.m., in Rikalt 2/F, Bonaventure Silva Lorenzo Apt., 66 Amarante St., San Lorenzo Village, Ayala Alabang (tel. 4163809 or 8386702). Silva puts together a chronological history of a people under Spanish dominion, transitioning into revolution and, later, struggling against American intrusion. At each step, cameras were present, faithfully recording the nuances of each historical juncture, from costumes to architecture and important historical figures. The 19th-century photographers, such as Albert Honbon, Francisco Van Kemp and Manuel Arnao, and their work will be examined, ranging from Honbon images to the execution of José Rizal. Important photographic images from the Ortigas Foundation Library Collection will be shown.

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Peñafrancia 'cine-musical' goes onstage, onscreen April 17

By Ricoshe J. Rebillos
Contributor

FOR THE creators of "Simon's Way," the "cine-film" production that chronicles the five-year search of a Franciscan monk tasked by the Blessed Mother to retrieve her missing image in the mountains across Western Forest, their homebuild is not only their way of venerating Our Lady of Peñafrancia, Bicol's patroness who derives its de-

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GUMIT Sudlungan's "Greater Access to Convergence" is 1st prize in the 3D Street Painting Festival organized by Ayala Towers Centera. The group, composed of PUP Sta. Mesa students, took home P75, 000 and a special glass trophy. Theme was "Fast-Forward: Life at the Center of the Metropolis."

"HITS@POLIS Mania" by 6:20, third place

Street painting goes 3D

"CONNECTED and Grown," by Reyvan, 2nd prize

AVIDA Land Corp. head of residential building Dino Cruz and marketing manager Tina Tacoy, and Reyvan group members Alvin Atienzaro, Pari Cea, Jane Gonzales and Mandredo Tiam

GUMIT Sudlungan members Arnold Laforgoja, Mel Delos, John Mark Reyes, Justin Fabriquela Jr., Melanie Balauton III, Jasper Barba and Joel Chaves, with Avida Land's Cruz and Tiaco

GUMIT SUDLUNGAN, a visual arts student group from Polytechnic University of the Philippines—Sta. Mesa, took home P75, 000 and a special glass trophy for their artwork "Greater Access to Convergence" in the 3D Street Painting Festival recently organized by Avida Towers Centera.

Theme was "Fast-Forward: Life at the Center of the Metropolis." The awarding was held at the MegaWest in Bajaj City as part of the launch of Avida Land Corp.'s latest high-rise development, Avida Towers Centera.

Gubit Sudlungan, which took inspirations from the works of American master artist and architect Kurt Wenner, won over 23 other teams.

"We were a bit discouraged when we learned that some of the artists we look up to joined the competition because they are already accomplished and popular. But we just told ourselves to do our best and focus on our work so we could execute our plans correctly," said Arnold Laforgoja of Gubit Sudlungan.

Other team members include Mel Delos, John Mark Reyes, Justin Fabriquela Jr. Melanie Balauton III, Jasper Barba and Joel Chaves. Their three-dimensional masterpiece depicts children living on the fringes, awaiting a bright future.

The last four days for 3D paintings for the competition were paired on the ground added an extra challenge.

"We are used to painting using a canvas so to turn reality a bridge is a challenge to paint the ground," Laforgoja said.

Reyvan was second place and was awarded P50,000 and a trophy for "Connected and Grown." The group, which is involved in graphic and fashion Alvin Atienzaro, Pari Cea, Jimro Gonzalez and Mandredo Tiam.

A five-piece group from University of the Philippines-Diliman placed third for "Metropolis Mania": Anne Leah Aldaba, Kathleen Fallaria, Clarissa Marie Rodriguez, Ralph Louis Barrientos and Dazia Herrera. They got P30,000 and a glass trophy.

Avida Towers Centera will also be giving away P20,000 and a trophy for the most favorite 3D street painting to its Facebook fan page. The entry that will get the most number of "likes" wins. To vote, visit www.facebook.com/avida LandCorp. Artworks can also be viewed at the Ayala Towers Centera site on Edsa Avenue corner Bellanor Street, Mandaluyong.

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LESSONS are customized for each student.

MSO School of Music's Marija Calderon said the main objective is to create and perform music and to apply and impart musical knowledge in all its diverse forms.

Faculty come from the University of Santo Tomas Conservatory of Music and University of the Philippines College of Music. The music school said it is best also to enroll as a group for not only it is more affordable, it offers the benefits of fun because they involve play with other students.

A group lesson is a minimum of four students at P6,800 per head. Early application program for toddlers (2-4 yrs old) is at P5,000. Duration of lessons is one hour.

Schedule of lessons is daily from 9 a.m. d p.m. The school is at 3/F, Magsaysay Building, at the back of Banco de Oro Libis, Quezon City. Call 2367508 and 0917-8378787.

STUDENTS learn individually and as part of the band.

Peñafrancia 'cine-musical' goes onstage, onscreen April 17

From page E1

notion from the original French shrine, it is also a philanthropic act.

"It's really Ge Sia (as Bicolanos fondly call Our Lady)," said Raymund Roldan, a lector from Ateni, who is the assistant director and also one of the performers of "Simon's Way."

The Archdiocese of Caceres, under Archbishop Leonardo Legaspi, OP, and Our Lady of Fatima Association are presenting "Simon's Way," the story of how the image of Our Lady of Peñafrancia was found and later made known to the world.

Directed by Ferdinand Dimadura, the production juxtaposes both serving and media. Twelve years in the making, "Simon's Way" has evolved from a mere theatrical and historical adaptation to a more complicated production...a musical interjected with film components.

Unlike other contemporary musical-turned-movies, "Simon's Way" shows different facets of a single story by choosing to use film and theater in different characters rather than fusing the two.

Starring in the musical are top actors Coco Laurel, Jaime Dominguez and Cris Villanueva. The film features Jon Javier, Fr. Fidel Rapsing and Nicole Laurel-Asistio.

Dancing performances

The musical includes dancing performances from that cast and the Manila Symphony Orchestra conducted by Arnie Molina, with music by Dimadura. The musical is set in medieval Europe, when Simon Vela journeyed to Spain in order to find the missing image of Our Lady of Peñafrancia. The film is set in the 1960s with a different set of characters.

In the musical, Simon finds love during his search and eventually has to choose between accomplishing the task the Blessed Mother has entrusted to him and settling down with his sweetheart Ines, Elisa. The real account of Simon Vela did not include Elisa, but Dimadura said he developed the character to add flavor to the musical.

CRIS VILLANUEVA, COCO LAUREL, JAIME DOMINGUEZ and assistant director Raymund Roldan

Proceeds of the musical, which combines stage and cinema, will go to poor Bicol parishes

VILLANUEVA and Laurel enjoy a light moment during the press briefing.

"I like to call it historical fiction," said Villanueva, beaming as she described what it was like playing Elisa.

The challenge for the makers of "Simon's Way" was to remain faithful to the parallelisms in both film and play and make the audiences understand the message of the canvassing sets: Simon's way is everybody's way.

"It's something anyone can relate to. It's all about choices... it's a very human story," said Laurel, who explained he considered it "payback time" since both he and his mother (actress artist Celia Ilian-Laurel) had survived various medical operations these past few years.

"This is my way of expressing gratitude to the Lord and Mother Mary," he said. "This is me bringing me to heaven, on to God."

Igniting faith

At a time when the world is forced to face crisis after crisis and the youth have a knack for holding nothing sacred, Simon Vela is a character that could ignite faith in anyone. His journey embodies the nondescript struggles in life, regardless of age and religion.

"It is where the search for one's faith. There are so many other points to be appreciated! [In the production]," said Dimadura.

Aside from giving back to God, "Simon's Way" is also about paying it forward to the community. The proceeds of "Simon's Way" will benefit the poor parishes of the Archdiocese of Caceres, such as the two month-old Parish of San Vicente Ferrer in Barangay Sagurong. A kin from the parish of Daguray.

It is a very poor parish. Its daily Mass collection is a measly P20. Fr. Bong Alano, its parish priest, has been staying in the barangay captain's office. There are instances he would travel to Dagtay and seek alms from the town's grocery owners just to have daily sustenance. With so many poverty-stricken parishes under the Archdiocese of Caceres, resources cannot cover all of them.

A special Palm Sunday promotional show of "Simon's Way" is slated April 17, 4 p.m., at The Block, SM North Edsa. On April 19, 8 p.m., it will have a one-night benefit gala at Newport Performing Arts Theater, Resorts World, Star City. Resorts World Manila is offering a special Holy Week package in which anyone who buys a ticket to "Simon's Way" gets a pass for "Kuno Musical Spectacle."

For tickets, inquiries and other information, call 7265422 or 0916.4133168 (Globe); 0927.4739145 (Smart); 0998.5281517 (Chikomo); 0917.8728730 (Isla of Resorts World Manila); and 9888888 (SM/M Tour Connect).

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The caveman diaries

Joel Trinidad in the unique monologue

By Joel Trinidad
Contributor

Dec. 3, 2009

I am honest that I have been in recent memory—rehearsing for one musical, directing another, performing in a third, and helping my girlfriend Rosy with her thriving cake business—when out friend Nia calls to offer up one more project: a one-man show called "Defending the Caveman," due in February next year.

"I need a really good actor," she says. "Someone who can carry a whole show by himself."

I can't believe my ears. A one-man show starring me! My eyes glaze over as I imagine cool carpets, supermodels, interviews, and that Holy Grail of life itself, the spontaneous standing ovation. It's incredibly flattering to think that someone out there thinks I am the best man for the job. Beaming with pride, I accept immediately.

"Good," Nia says, "because everyone else we asked said no."

Dec. 4, 2009

Research reveals that the show writers by American actor, [illegible] Bob Becker, is the longest-running solo play in Broadway history, and has been translated into 14 languages and performed in 45 countries.

"Defending the Caveman" is essentially one guy talking about the differences between the sexes, using anecdotes, observations and even some sketches to explain the plight of the gents. The character I play is the stereotypical married man: funny, oblivious, sometimes insecure, usually (one hour out spoon—and it immediately strikes me that I am nothing at all like this person. That's the type of guy who chases his dirty underwear lying around, whereas I have a special hamper just for my dirty underwear.)

I need to find some common ground with this guy—something, anything—to be able to play him effectively. So I ask Rosy to marry me.

Dec. 15, 2009

Reading through the script, which is essentially a 75-page monologue full of hilariously perceptive and thought-provoking insights, my first thought is, "This is really funny!" (My second thought is, "A 75-PAGE MONOLOGUE?! ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?!")

Jan. 3, 2010

Rosy and I have just been married in a lovely chapel in Las Vegas—what, did you think I was kidding about getting married?—and, suddenly, I feel different. I am overcome with a powerful urge to protect Rosy and to make her happy. And to leave my dirty underwear on the floor.

Jan. 12, 2010

I'm back in Manila, and it's Day 3 of rehearsals with my directors, Michael Williams and Cathy Azarcon-De

The essay of the show's sketches, I'm supposed to play both sides of a married couple, to show the contrast between the typical unsentimentalize, moral husband and the typical talkative, organized wife's. The problem, apparently, is that I'm more convincing playing a woman than a man.

Jan. 24, 2010

Rosy and I are shooting in Cavite, roaming several hectares-and-wide vigilantes for the video that starts the show.

When pizza is served, Rosy a flabbergasted about how much of it I eat. "Learn some for the cover!" She can't believe I can be so oblivious to the feelings of others. Obviously, she doesn't know I'm just getting into character.

Jan. 29, 2010

Nia has invited a few people to watch our rehearsal. (There will be ten audiences regularly from today onward.) The experience is completely surreal: watching, but, somehow, at the end of it, I get a standing ovation! (Okay, it was just one woman. But it counts.)

Feb. 1, 2010

It's my biggest test: group actor, almost 20 people, but it's a climax. I'm making. I'm jumping in weird places. I'm flubbing lines. Michael later says I wasn't connecting with the audience. I guess I've been working a little too hard at being oblivious.

February 2010

Opening night, and I'm backstage at the Ivanhoe Lib Theater in Makati. I'm nervous. My throat is dry, and I'm seriously starting to question my career choices. But it's too late to back out now.

I hear my cue, sing myself onstage, and I do what I came here to do. And, suddenly, there it is: my first punchline. And, just like that, the people start laughing. And, soon enough, they're not just laughing, they're applauding, nodding in agreement, nudging their dates knowingly, sharing suggestions.

I can't believe this is happening, and I'm enjoying every moment. And as I take my bow at the end of the show, they are—can it be true?—standing. They're cheering, whooping, their applause calling me back to the stage to take another bow. Yes, it's a standing ovation! And it's perfect, … or would be if I actually knew it was happening.

You see, I retired right after my first bow, and here I am backstage, choosing off my stage costume haphazardly as I change into my street clothes, utterly oblivious.

I guess I did get into character, after all.

CCC Productions, Theater Mogul, in cooperation with KIZ Sun Aligned Bear, are bringing back "Defending The Caveman" on May 6, 7, 13, 14, 20 and 21, at 8 p.m., at the CPA Auditorium, BGHC Please Mercy.

For tickets, call 231-0788 or text 0917-327-8213. Tickets also available at Ticketworld at 891-9999 or ticketworld.com.ph. Part of the proceeds of the show will go to various Japan earthquake relief efforts.

Joel Trinidad is the Caveman in Philippines on Facebook

JOEL Trinidad as the Caveman

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Wait is over with Internet provider's 5 mbps offering

WITH THE Internet becoming a necessity rather than a mere luxury in everyday life, consumers easily lose their patience when they can't perform simple tasks, like sending a report in their homes or downloading an updated version of their mobile phone application.

Like electricity and water, Internet connection has acquired the character of a utility service that when a subscriber fires up a computer, he or she expects to watch an HD movie without delay or make a video chat with a relative abroad with crystal-clear conversation.

At 5 mbps, which is five times the speed of current broadband offerings in the market, Web activities are always on the fast-forward button. Upload and download big files, watch YouTube videos from multiple tabs and browsers, and stream movies and music—all in a snap.

SkyBroadband, the Internet service unit of Cignal-owned SkyCable, will allow just that with its blazing fast 5 mbps for only P999—arguably the boldest and most revolutionary Internet package yet.

Rodrigo E. Monteclaro, head of marketing of SkyCable, said innovation has always been in the corporate DNA of SkyBroadband. "In 2006, we were among the market when we offered 512 mbps when everyone else is offering a maximum speed of 1 mbps. In 2010, SkyBroadband again offered the fastest speed at 512 mbps at Boulevard in Makati City."

Aside from 5 mbps' commendable price, it may be pointed out, has a data cap, unlike allowance of 15 gb, which gives Internet users the freedom to do any of the following activities at a given time: unlimited access to social networking sites for one whole month; download up to 3,750 songs, watch 25 movies, watch 225 hours of movies YouTube clips, or consume 566 hours of talk time in Internet telephony.

What's more, the package already includes a free subscription of SkyBroadband's iWant TV which offer exclusive content for SkyBroadband subscribers.

But in case a subscriber would still need additional data requirements, there's an option to top-up P100 per 1 gb—another first for the industry. A similar 5-mbps plan, this time with a 20 gb-monthly data allocation, is also available for P1,499.

Consumers should be happy to note, however, that this latest offering is just one of the many Internet packages of SkyBroadband, which ranging from 1 mbps to 512 mbps.

In raising the speed bar higher, SkyBroadband has addressed the needs of its customer's demands. It showed that speed is always the first consideration that regular Internet users attribute to a "good ISP."

In that study, 1 mbps was regarded as the minimum acceptable speed and that anything below is perceived as dial-up. While the new offering, SkyBroadband is also targeting ordinary Internet users a data speed that was once believed to be ideal only for business use.

Now, consumers who use the Internet extensively will get to experience amazingly fast speed for their Web applications, as well as for their communication and entertainment needs.

"Today's consumers navigate the Web with great proficiency and have come to assimilate Internet use as an integral part of life," Monteclaro said.

Internet junkies seeking to maximize and be more productive with a 5 mbps connection can visit www.SkyBroadband.com. Call 633-0000 and ask for a free trial.

RAY Monteclaro (SkyCable vice-president for marketing) and Joy Lantin, manager for marketing

LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

Books and roses at Instituto Cervantes de Manila

INSTITUTO Cervantes de Manila director José Rodríguez

WHILE NEW technologies are transforming our lives dramatically in many aspects, including literature, Instituto Cervantes de Manila (ICM) is returning to the basics as it brings back the celebration of Día Internacional del Libro (International Book Day) this April 16.

Around 9,000 book titles will be exhibited at the Spanish cultural center for the 10th edition of Día del Libro. From 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., bibliophiles and the curious can get their hands on a wide selection of books—children's and young adult titles, dictionaries, novels, fiction and non-fiction titles...for as low as P26.

And following the tradition in Spain, for every purchase you make you will be given a rose.

"The Internet has caused a revolution in the book publishing industry where electronic book titles are swindling hard covers. In this era of electronic books, I believe the traditional book is still incomparable. It is the total experience as it triggers all your senses," says ICM director José Rodríguez.

First introduced by ICM in Manila in 2006, the tradition (related to an old legend involving rituals) of Día del Libro began in Barcelona, Spain, where, on St. George's Day, gifts were exchanged between sweethearts. Men buy roses for women, and in return, women buy books for men. This tradition encourages book lovers from all walks of life to gather and indulge their literary passion.

This date also commemorates the deaths of two of history's greatest writers—Miguel de Cervantes and William Shakespeare—who coincidentally died also on the same year in 1616.

Book Day activities

Día del Libro starts with an online contest where photo enthusiasts just have to take a picture of them or anybody reading a book in the most creative way and the winner will get a Kindle.

In addition to the book market, ICM will stage the grandeur of celebrations, including an all-day feast of Spanish food with free wine-tasting, film showings, games, poetry recital and free Spanish classes.

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the young ones can have an opportunity to delve into their creative side with the Primera Para Niños, a coloring activity for the young artists. It will then be followed by screening of the Spanish animated film "El libro perdido (The Missing Lynx)." Then from 4 p.m., kids can sing along to classic Spanish nursery rhymes.

Visit the Instituto Cervantes library and see the vast collection of books, videos, periodicals and audio CDs.

Membership only costs 775 pesos but students and senior citizens can get it for almost half the price.

Language courses

Demonstration classes for the Spanish language course will be held at 10:30 a.m., 1:30 and 5 p.m. Diagnostic tests will also be conducted at 11:45 a.m. and 3:45 p.m.

Those who are into poetry may search the "Sonrisa Hablada" —a unique poetry chain of Filipino and European poems which was recently awarded the Premio Jaume C. de Veyra by the Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino—at 2 p.m. at the salon de lectura.

Then at 6 p.m., the Argentinean winner of the Best Foreign Language Film at the 82nd Academy Awards, "El secreto de sus ojos (The Secret in their Eyes)," screens at

BOOKS F2

'Wimpy Kid' book 2 translates into family film

FROM THE best-selling author of "Diary of A Wimpy Kid" who made reading more available to reluctant and nonreaders, Jeff Kinney's best-selling follow-up, "Diary of A Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules," is reaching the big screen with returning and first-time Cinehorts Gardner and Greg Brotbeck as Rodrick, Steve Zahn and Rachael Harris as Mr. and Mrs. Heffley and Robert Capron as Rowley.

"Rodrick Rules" being the story "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" second that has those on the sold 45 million books begins during Greg's seventh grade, when he and his older brother—and their namesake—Rodrick must deal with their parents' misguided attempts to have them bond.

From its origins as a series of online cartoons, "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" exploded onto the pop culture scene when Jeff Kinney's first "novel in cartoons" was published in 2007. "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" spent almost three years on the New York Times' children's bestseller list, and sold millions of copies around the world. The book captured the imaginations of an army of formerly "reluctant readers," and launched countless video reviews, social networking fan groups and parties celebrating the release of each new Wimpy Kid book.

ROBERT Capron and Zachary Gordon in "Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules"

While Kinney had originally targeted adults through the book's nostalgic look at middle school life as told through a narrator with Walter Mittyesque fantasies of grandeur, kids immediately gravitated to his blending of the subversive and edgy with the fun and wholesome.

Released by David Bowers who also worked on all-time favorites animated films "The Prince of Egypt," "Flushed Away," "Fairy Tale" "Wallace & Gromit: The Curse of the Were Rabbit," and "Ghost Tale," the second "Wimpy Kid" movie kicks off exactly where the first film, with Greg beginning seventh grade. Greg has mastered middle school, rid himself of the Cheese Touch, and thinks he's got it all together. There's just one problem: Rodrick is trying to ruin Greg's life. "The movie is centered on a classic theme, something most people have been through, which is sibling rivalry," says producer Brad Simpson. "Every day, Greg probably wishes he were an only child."

The movie also has universal meaning: one of his books into a film was no less exciting for Kinney than for readers fellowship two-year-old "Diary of a Wimpy Kid." "As an author, it's incredibly exciting to see your words [and doodles] come to life on screen."

Forums lined up for 2011 World Book and Copyright Day

THE NATIONAL Book Development Board (NBDB) and the Intellectual Property Office (IPO) Philippines will mark World Book and Copyright Day on April 11 at the Ballroom of the SPAvila Land Technohub in Quezon City.

Organizers' finds Raymond Lambino of Bob Ong Syndicate, National Book Store's Aldous M. Bahle, and Simon and Schuster's Jennifer Arnier will talk about "The Making of a Bestseller: What Sells and What Does Not."

Then Inciong Tweetwriting author of "Forever Married" and "Amazing Grace"), Pinoy romance's Rose Sun ("Precious Hearts" top author), and literary Aly will talk about romance writing.

Dolores Meggers and authors Samuel Ilocano Rosacor (Lonely Planet Philippines), travel and food bloggers Ayla Ty (Pinoy Eats World) and Jose Morales (Jose About Travel), Tweet-loving Loadstar of blog-turned-book Adobo) and Ivin Villanueva (Top Men) (blog Pinoy Collectibles).

Marina House will conduct a Book Illustration workshop for kids.

There will be a copyright forum. Panelists are IPO Philippines' deputy director general Ambeth Ocampo, Lourdes Cabrera and Mark Ilo.

There will also be an exclusive screening of Khavn dela Cruz's "Mondomanila," a film based on Norman Wilwayco's Palanca-winning pornographic novella of Antipodo Beyer "Ten Baking Layering."

Aside from the workshops, lectures and film showing, there will also be a mini-book fair participated in by National Book Store, Adarna Publishing, Anvil Publishing, Ateneo Press, Sam Dee Publishers, and Filipinas Heritage Library.

Admission is free. "Mondomanila" screening slot is P300. Call 926-8220.

AROUND 4,000 book titles will be exhibited at the Spanish cultural center for the sixth edition of Dia del Libro.

Books and roses at Instituto Cervantes...

From page F1

the Salon de Actos.

Dia del Libro is organized by Instituto Cervantes de Manila in collaboration with the Spanish Embassy in the Philippines, Spanish Department of Culture, Spanish Agency International Cooperation for Development (AECID), Spanish Program for Cultural Cooperation (PCC), Universidad de Castilla y la Mancha, Fundacion Jose Antonio de Castro, Grupo Anaya, Biblioteca Nacional de Espana, La Telesma, CERC, Fundacion Museo Buttonsky, Regalos de Historia, Jamon de Cerdo y Lomo, Casa Asia, en Clave ELE, La Casa Encendida, Castilla, La Mancha, Circulo de Bellas Artes, Fundacion Carlos Amberes, Delegation of the European Union to the Philippines and the British Council.

Other sponsors are Universidad de Cordoba, Universidad Autonoma de Madrid, Universidad de Murcia, Universidad de Leon, Casa de Alcaldesa del Mediterraneo, Universidad de Oviedo, Universidad de Salamanca, Residencia de Estudiantes, Universidad de Cantabria, e Different Bookstore, Fully Booked, Powerbooks, Cafe de los Locos, Alba, Ruinas Tours, Centro Espanol de Manila, Espa-Heated Tv Card.

Admission to all this dia! libro activities is free on a first come, first served basis. For more information, call 526-1482 or visit http://manila.cervantes.es from Instituto Cervantes de Manila is at 851 Th! Antonio St., Ermita, Manila.

Up close and personal with Bienvenido N. Santos

CAPTURING the essence of the Filipino experience

By Joyce Bernales
Contributor

HE HAS BEQUEATHED home the National Artist award because of his American citizenship, although everyone agreed he richly deserved it. Four literary figures have praised the versatility and depth of his published works, a wealth of stories and poems that capture the essence of Filipinos and Filipino-Americans.

One hundred years after his birth on March 22, 1911, he is still honored here as a prolific writer but also as a master storyteller of the Philippine American experience.

He is Bienvenido N. Santos, or Manny Sen, as he is fondly called by friends.

In celebration of Manny Sen's 100th centenary, Anvil Publishing has released an important biographical book, "Bits on Bits: Conversations with Bienvenido N. Santos," by Joseph Antonio Bruno.

A book of memories rather than memoirs, "Bits on Bits" features 23 taped conversations between the author and the subject of the book, with the interviews focused on "having him speak on that and for him and about that and his works as no other person could."

The interviews cover a wide range of topics, from the children to the not-so-sublime, insights on Santos' craft of writing, and themes of love, pain, loneliness, and the ravages of the flesh, which are the hallmarks of his poetry and fiction.

The conversations in the book are arranged by topics, following Santos' development as a writer, beginning with his private notes are in Tondo and Binondo, then the novels, where he is most enriching and moving in more extended treatment of themes and subject matters as a Filipino, Asian, or minority-writer in America.

The inclusion of Bruno's own essays on Bienvenido Santos in the beginning of the collection is intended to frame the author's role...as a close friend, a commentary-critic and a renowned writer herself...and set the stage for key conversations with the subject. Besides the taped interviews, the collection also includes two sections by Santos, the first of which summarizes his craft of fiction, and the second featuring an extensive discussion about his fellow Tagbac novel.

In the book's afterword, Santos' son Tomas explains the importance of the collection, as a Tagbac "locates this behind in a literary milieu most challenging to define, an area neither American, nor Filipino, nor Asian, but somehow perhaps also all of these things."

His further thesis how Bienvenido succeeds in making Manny Sen explain his view of identity with questions about his personal audience, how he can be both Filipino and American.

"One of his responses," Tomas Santos relates, "that he would like to be read by Filipinos in America, a case that must be taken with a grain of salt. The typical Filipino in America is so taken up with work and assimilation that it leaves little time for reading. In the hope that his work would be read by his compatriots indicates his wish for a community of readers who have lived through exile, and who can, through his stories, reflect on their own lives."

Tomas Santos ends the book by pointing out the gift the author shares with the reader: "[He] gave us the chance to see ourselves. Santos foreshadowing his ideas about life and writing, and about a tradition still very young. His thoughts about Filipino-American literature are valuable because he was one of the pioneers in this area of the volume, the heart of Manny Sen, the Eddy Aligan poem is. But it all about the search for personal identity, our enduring passion. This is the gift Leonor Briones has given to us here: his heart, and it is everything."

Anvil Publishing Inc. in Cubao University and the Bienvenido N. Santos Creative Writing Center of UE-M launched "Bits on Bits: Conversations with Bienvenido N. Santos" last March 22, coinciding with the author's birth centennial. The book is now available at National Bookstores.

PEN to hold literature teaching workshop in Iloilo

THE PHILIPPINE Center of International PEN (Poets, Playwrights, Essayists, Novelists) is conducting a series of teaching literature workshops in selected regions all over the Philippines this year. Called "For Love of the Word: Philippine Literature in English Schools and Colleges," this project is geared toward retooling, improving and upgrading the skills of literature teachers in both secondary and tertiary levels.

The first workshop was held last March 25 at the Western University in Iloilo.

The second of the series, a lecture-workshop on teaching poetry and fiction in English, Filipino and regional languages, will be held on May 6, Fri., 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the University of Asia Agenda's Conference Room, Bilaco Hall, General Luna Street, Iloilo City. PEN members and Mechthild Distributing Teacher awardees Marjorie Evasco and Lemuel Dervada will serve as the facilitators.

This workshop is co-hosted by the University of San Agustin Iloilo and supported by DFA International in UK, and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency.

For inquiries and previous teachers, contact Philippine PEN at Solidaridad Bookstore, 531 Padre Faura St., Ermita, Manila, Philippines, Tel. No. (632) 522-6078; Telefax (632) 525-5809, email: pen@philippinepen@yahoo.com; mobile: 0917-526-3447.

61st Palanca Awards now accepting entries

THE DEADLINE for entries to the Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature (Palanca Awards) is midnight of April 30.

This year, the Palanca Awards is accepting entries for the Novel, English and Filipino. The category is open to entry three years.

Separate categories are English division—Short Story, Short Story for Children, Essay, Poetry, Poetry for Children, One-act Play and Full-length Play; Filipino division—Maikling Kuwento, Maikling Kuwentong Pambata, Sanaysay, Tula, Tula para sa Bata, Dulang May Isang Yugto, Dulang Ganap ang Haba and Dulang Pampelikula. Regional language division: Short Story—Cebuano, Hiligaynon and Iloko.

Each contestant may submit only one entry per category.

The Palanca Awards also welcomes essays under the Kodakan division for young writers in English and Filipino. The fee for the English category is "What is the most valuable lesson I learned from the literature?", and for Filipino, "Ano ang pinakamahalagang aral ang aking natutunan mula sa binasa?"

The literary contest is open to all Filipino for Iranian Filipinos citizens, except current officers and employees of the Carlos Palanca Memorial Foundation, Inc. Contest rules and official entry forms are available at newspaper contests.com.ph.

Entries with complete requirements may be submitted to the Executive Secretary's office at the 4th Floor, Rizal Public Library, 10 Upper McKinley Road, McKinley Hill Town Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. They may also be entered online through the Palanca Awards website or e-mailed to palancaawards@pal canawards.com.ph.

Winners will be announced on Sept. 1.

Stephen King's new 'Dark' matter

The horror master's new collection of novellas is a testament to the human capacity for revenge

By Rust S. De Vera

LIKE the steadiest of seasons, a brand new Stephen King book usually arrives once a year—and when many die-hard chapter, always full of polish and lore. This particular King feature is more uniquely King than usual. "Full Dark, No Stars" (Scribner, New York, 2010; 368 pages) is a collection of long stories, novellas really, and King's latest gathering of novellas since 1999's "Four Past Midnight."

King has overcome much in his life, including a terrible auto accident in 1999, and actually talked about retirement in 2002. "It's King has flourished since then, publishing one book after another, were exploring cinematic publications, shifting from form to form, like the 2008 short-story compilation "Just After Sunset" and the notable 2009 novel "Under the Dome."

There are only four stories in "Dark," but two of them are over a hundred pages long. "1922" takes the form of a man's confession, his name is Wilfred James and in the stroke year he killed his wife with tablets to gain possession of land in her name in Nebraska. But it was happens after she is dead that the story becomes itself with. All-Hell begins to see his wife's decaying face. But even more alarming, Wilfred sees rats everywhere, as if the vermin were after him. He rats, but can't seem to get away. In his unique manner as a unwinking really chasing him? "The dead understand everything," he tells himself. "The dead don't stop."

"Big Driver" is a more contemporary tale of violence. Mystery book author Tess was on her way home after a reading in Mass. inclement when her truck hatch a tire. When a man in a truck stops nearby. Tess thinks she is saved, but the man abducts, rapes and leaves her for dead in a secluded culvert. Somehow, Tess survives. It is at that point that "Big Driver" really kicks in, changing speeds to match the story's requirements and yet remains full of cold purpose.

The sardonic "Fair Extension" is a fresh take on the Faustian bargain, the deal with the devil. The shortest of the four novellas, "Fair Extension" introduces unhappy Dave Streeter, who was suffering from cancer and really, really envious of his longtime best friend, the successful entrepreneur and family man Tom Goodhugh. A chance meeting with a mysterious man named George Third Avenger off that, as Streeter is offered 15 more years of life. In exchange, Third asks Streeter to debut into his secret license. What happens next is a testament to our capacity for debauchery and—surprising unless people's misfortune—and King's ability to keep readers guessing.

What happens when you find out that your longtime husband has been keeping a horrible secret from you? What would you do? What do you promise before "A Good Marriage," the last story, which warns us not to go looking for things we are afraid to find, even in your own garage.

"This was the world she had believed in as a child. It had been hers all the time. Waiting for her. The refrigerator whirred, the toaster dropped in the slots, and the sun seemed paused. This was the Dutboy Lily, where every circle was written backwards."

The last story in "Dark" is finely toned and elegant even in their violence and deceit. Revenge is the common thread and King had decided to show what we are capable of using from the light: "I have cried my heart in. Well fuck, his heart to reward what people might do, regard how they might behave, under certain dire circumstances. The people in these stories are not without hope, but they acknowledge that even our fondest hopes (and our limit. set wishes for our fellowmen and the society in which we live) may sometimes be vain. Often, even. But I think they also say that nobody's most fully awake not to succeed but in trying to do the right thing... and that when we fail to do that, we willfully turn away from the challenge, hell follows."

All this says that "Full Dark, No Stars" is proof that Stephen King does not need the supernatural to terrify us. Sometimes, all you need is other people.

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Please join us in a one-day learning activity on April 13, 2011, from 2:00pm to 5:00pm at HKR Test Kitchen. Limited seats available!

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* Minimum spend provided above is net of all SM discounts.

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Visit the nearest SM mall on their sale dates and enjoy shopping with your BDO Credit Card or American Express Card!

Book pays tribute to White Cross orphanage

CONNIE Nuñez-Lopez, president of White Cross since 1981

SINCE 1936, White Cross has provided temporary shelter for, or arranged the adoption of, 6,500 children.

"A Home for Every Child... The White Cross Story" consists of essays by adoptive parents who share their intimate journey to parenthood through White Cross, former children of the institute who had been adopted and are now adults, and caregivers who nurtured the children.

The book is issued in connection with the 75th anniversary of White Cross. It will be launched April 30, 10 a.m., at White Cross.

The book is published by Intramuros Heritage Foundation, with Maria Lisa Asuncion Sanciangco as publisher-editor and Veronica Beatrice Concepcion-Sanciangco as publisher. Abe Florendo is editor in chief, and Ed Dorsal book designer. All proceeds of the book will go to White Cross.

White Cross is at 276 Jose Abad Rd., San Juan, Metro Manila. For more information, call 7242195, 7212779; visit white-cross.weebly.com.

ENTERTAINMENT

Lito Emmie G. Velarde

'Kaos,' a perfectly justifiable indulgence

the eye-popping production is about to end its Manila run

PIC. CAMARIÑAS Plus the big prop: Giselle, princess from the future.

'All-access pass' to Royal Wedding

CLICK!

ENRIQUE Pole-axed one of his tigers.

MISSIVAL costumes are by the renowned Lisibella Barjolota, from Belarus.

By Emmie G. Velarde

THE SINGING is quite skillful, too. "Kaos," a "Las Vegas meets Broadway" production, promises gloopy song-and-dance routines, eye-popping aerobatic stunts, sleek magic involving huge jungle cats and some other stunning acts that have yet to be categorized. It would be a perfectly justifiable indulgence to catch it, if you haven't yet. Or even if you have.

Named for the one white lion that's a proud member of the cast, "Kaos" is ongoing six times weekly at the Newport Performing Arts Theater in Resorts World Manila, Pasay City but not for much longer. It opened the lifestyle entertainment complex's premier venue last Dec. 1, final presentation is on May 31, by which time the show will have been

RAMON SA

NATASHA Garcilla sings "Senggugulo."

SIAH Magbanpil as the beastie prince.

JOEL Trinidad as the scheming adviser

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'Kaos,' a perfectly justifiable...

From page G1

stage! Lit there.

To the tune of "Where is love?," two Chinese acrobats swirl in the air, held aloft by a bought-of stallion-like material flowing down from an overhead pulley. It looks so easy, even romantic, until you notice shoulder and arm muscles working double time.

Beautiful sounds were dressed as galleon (yes, sailing ships) steal the thunder from the women in mermaid finery. Two of those men later engage the audience with an intense routine, including one of them carrying the other for a breathtaking 15 seconds like a yoyo, but vertically, on the sheer strength of his nape. The men have grown steel pockets on his back! On what extreme protein variety were these boys from Belarus raised?

Bass the lion and the two strongmen hinged tigers (they hold the spectators spellbound by simply walking federally-encaged) belong to a menagerie of animal performers ritually restored by master illusionist Dr. Cipsi Polo Jesus Ipsito. He has at least five mind-boggling spots in the show.

Did we mention that this is an international ensemble?

Certainly the most awesome and best applauded number a "Cycle of Life" — five motorcyclists, one from Spain, who perform in that possible stunts inside a metal globe that isn't he even a touch of that nor in front of Mall of Asia. And oh, are those two South American guys are the "Human Time Machine" human?

The Filipino cast component consists of singer/actor Gian Magdangal as the lovesick prince, half-Pinay "Canadian Mail" actress Martha Jay as the princess, Joel Trinidad as the scheming royal advisor, Arnaud Valentino as the king (based on the story line, these are the least significant roles!), hip hop dance champions Philippine All Stars, singer Natasha Gaviola as Princess Florita, and the Manila Symphony Orchestra. (playing dramatically from a balcony perch).

Many of the dancers are Pinoys as well.

Conception of the state-of-the-art (and technology) 1,500-seat venue is a complex fly system with 27 harness and a nine-meter diameter revolving stage with three sets of scissor-type stage risers that can be lifted up to raise actors from the stage floor.

Risk? That's the technical explanation for some unexplainable aspects of "Kaos." There's more, but you need not look at those things rationally. Global works for reality-escapers.

(Tickets are from P900 to P3,000. Call Ticketworld at 891-9999 or visit www.ticketworld.com.ph.)

MOVIE TIME

GLORIETTA 4

1: HALL PASS
2: THE ROOM MATE
3: RIO (3D)
4: RIO
5: HOP
6: SOURCE CODE
7: GHOST SHIP

GREENBELT 1

1: HALL PASS
2: THE ROOM MATE

GREENBELT 2

1: HALL PASS
2: RIO (3D)
3: HOP
4: RIO
5: THE ROOM MATE

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1: SOURCE CODE
2: RIO (3D)
3: HALL PASS
4: HOP
5: THE ROOM MATE

AYALA CENTER CEBU

1: THE ROOM MATE
2: HOP
3: RIO (3D)
4: SOURCE CODE
5: HALL PASS

MARQUEE

1: THE ROOM MATE
2: RIO (3D)
3: GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO
4: CATCH ME IM IN LOVE

MARKET! MARKET!

1: RIO (3D)
2: HALL PASS
3: THE ROOM MATE
4: TEMPORARILY CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
5: TEMPORARILY CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
6: HOP
7: CATCH ME IM IN LOVE

TRINOMA

1: THE ROOM MATE
2: TUAL MY PLEDGE OF LOVE
3: GHOST SHIP
4: RIO (3D)
5: HOP
6: HALL PASS
7: SOURCE CODE

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MOVIE SPECIAL

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Senior Year

MALL EVENTS

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GREENBELT
"Kung Fu Panda" Studio Stage at Play, "Rhonda" Dialogues with Miguel Bautista & J. Aldeguer/Jaro, April 14, Greenbelt 3 Patio, 6 pm

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Bonifacio High Street Night Market, April 15-17, Activity Center

BONIFACIO HIGH STREET
Bonifacio High Street Night Market, April 15-17, Activity Center

MARKET! MARKET!
Bonifacio High Street Night Market, April 15-17, Activity Center

AYALA CENTER CEBU
Summer Travel Expo, Activity Center, April 15-20, Activity Area

TRINOMA
The Travel Club: World Traveller exhibit
April 9-17, Level 4
Events area near TGIFD

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BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

RIKO MACHINE — BY PAWIK ABRERA

SEH — BY DANIEL SHELTON

HUTTS

SHERMAN'S LAGOON — BY JIM TOOMEY

DUSTIN — BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER

TULDOG — BY MARA CULL

SUDOKU

BY TRASCO DOMO

TOO EASY TODO Two-minute "try it at breakfast" challenge. Not for you, unless you understand bondage. This can be solved without your coffee, without your contacts, without the first three letters of your name. Take one to remember.

EASIER (Aug. 7 to June 30) Some of the numbers are given. Use them to fill in the rest. Don't worry, there's support. Two take one to remember.

SOMEWHERE (May 9 to June 30) Numbers are given. Use them to fill in the rest. Don't worry, there's support. Two take one to remember.

ALMOST (Aug. 7 to June 30) Some numbers are given. Use them to fill in the rest. Don't worry, there's support. Two take one to remember.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Power struggles with people in authority are highly likely today. You can defeat anyone with a puzzled frown and a question, starting with "Why?"

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Secret, behind-the-scenes activities could put you against your adversary. Be careful what you tell anyone. If anyone's to do something underhanded, it probably was Gemini.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Rushing with others in groups to audience can leave some behind. Don't panic. Make time to stop and reflect. Instead of getting the job done, depression is difficult to resist. Therefore, indulging in anything.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Your confidence could get you in trouble today. Be careful that you don't reach too far for what you want. Stand patiently and express you. Your boss if might be a better approach.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) A real heated discussion about politics, religion and could ensue. You will be called on to make a decision involving money. Romantic people are out of sorts with each other. Oh dear.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Discussions about investments, inheritances and insurance matters might take place today. Try to empower them if you can, because this is a

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Discussions about investments, inheritances and insurance matters might take place today. Try to empower them if you can, because this is a

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Disputes about how to involve responsibilities in the things at work are likely to flare. Try to collaborate these if you can. Nothing will be resolved anyway.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You'll prove a handful with overbearing behavior, which could provoke struggles in romantic relationships today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Don't let words with family members today. It's easy to work to get your own way with words. The more to live nobody was spoken. Just will go.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Some struggles with others, especially siblings and neighbors, are likely to take place today. If you become participant, how the struggle without think out who nothing for today.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Creative short finances, money, cash flow and possessions might take place today. People will be

constitutional matters.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that each row, column, and every 3×3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. For more programs or www.sudoku.com

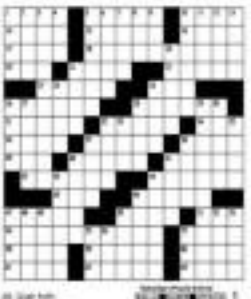
Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	1				2		7	
3		2					6	5
	4		8		1			
		1		6		2		7
			1	4	5			
5		8		2		4		
			2		6		4	
7	2					9		1
	5		9				2	

Difficulty Level ★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Are Robin, Mariel also TV5-bound?

WHO was seen with Melissa Ricks at the Bruno Mars concert?

CEBUZZI it be true that Robin Padilla and Mariel Rodriguez have sent feelers to TV5 about their desire to switch networks? Their pledge of love to each other is stronger than ever, but pledging allegiance to one's home network doesn't seem to be the "in" thing these days with all the celebs jumping ship left and right.

Back to show biz

I met the husband of Rosanna Guimoc at the baptism of Bailey Bayot' epic. I asked him if he would still allow his wifey to go back to show biz.

"Siya na mismo ang ayaw mag-Juli'i-time," he says. "She's so focused on our baby. Jo adore OK lang naman basta walang love scenes."

Jes Rosanna is not gonna kiss any leading man, but neither is she going to kiss show biz goodbye.

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

Real scores

Jake Vestida nailed me up to clarify the real score between him and Judi Ria. Maria. "Matalyo ako kay Judi at sa family niya," he explained. "Wala namang issue." Oh. Close long friend lang. Meaning opisyal pinagkakasunduan ngayon as sorry lang no dapkgayo pa ng in-it'ngs. Ako naman busy with my commitments in Cebu. No time for love mana ako now."

For a true blue romantic like Jake, it's just time out but it can never be time's up for love.

Spotted together

Melissa Ricks and Marlon Gaddi(Bill) were spotted together at the Bruno Mars concert. Wonder what their Bruno song is for each other? "Just The Way You Are" or "Marry You"?

'Awesome Hunt'

JC and I immensely enjoyed participating in PLDT@DHL "Awesome Hunt." We're Team Laguna up against other celebrity teams in various parts of the country. We scored amazing Gravity in search of its primitive wonders.

Find out what we uncovered by logging on to wowgmmedia.pldt.com/awesomehunt (wow is for remembrythen). Please vote for Team Laguna. You may win cool daily 10 April 24. Big prizes await you. The hunt and heat are on.

PERSONAL: Machinroos praises to the efficient staff who assisted JC and me—Nikki Pereyra, Malic Pereyra, Bryan Ignacio, Bella Salic, Leo Dizon, Ravel Sevilla. Extraordinaires and TVE, especially our legend Shelly Almio. Special thanks to Gary Dajoh and Martin Bonnaddeler for guiding us all the way.

E-mail: awesomehunt.dhl@yahoo.com

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FROM left: Michael Cornick, Andrew Congihan, Kirsten Hobbs, Shaun Bonnie and Akira Chikiey

The show must go on

Confidence

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

TIM: "The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber" is set to reach out to a younger demographic as well. "With the four LED screens as backdrop and the colorful costumes, we keep the show young, contemporary and sexy," said Simone Gordon.

It's also humongous, she said. Case in point is a ballet chosen how hand-in-glove of "The Master Affair" from "Whistle Down the Wind"—a song that was a pop hit for the group Boyzone.

As Webber excursed in the brief interview included in the show, he grew up in a home that embraced various musical styles, including pop. As such, his music has become not so "selective"—spanning various genres and tradi-tions from classical to rock, from gospel to good ole fashioned pop, of course.

Gordon said that she wouldn't be surprised if a Filipino artista would join the cast in the Manila leg of the tour.

She is quite familiar with the formidable talents of Filipinos, having watched "Miss Saigon" in the West End in the late 1980s.

"I know that a number of Filipinos, like Lea Salonga, Lea Valdez and Joanna Ampil, have performed in international productions—in West End, Broadway, even Australian shows. There are a lot of names ... a lot of choices."

She pointed out that the show generally held auditions, but those who have worked in previous Philtrust productions need not go through the process.

Gordon said that she got to work with Rosy and Lucy winner Lea Salonga when the latter performed at the opening of the Asian Olympics in Doha in 2006.

"I want associate producers then, Filipino talents are unbelievable. They are extraordinary," she quipped.

To be held at the Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, the Manila staging of "The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber" is presented by Gotchbee Theatrical Productions, David Atkins Enterprises, All Fourth Quarters and Concertus, in association with Neither's The Really Useful Company Asia Pacific.

E-mail: bayanjsandiego@hotmail.com

ENTERTAINMENT

Michael V backs Wendell's move

By Marinel R. Cruz

ACTOR Wendell Ramos said he received "the most encouraging words" about his transfer from GMA 7 to TV5 from comedian Michael V, who is rumored to be negotiating with the Kapatid network himself.

"Michael V said things would turn out fine for me eventually," Wendell told Inquirer Entertainment during his recent press launch as a TV5 talent. "I just have to be optimistic and have what I'm doing. I'm also ready for that if I needed company, he's just a phone call away."

Wendell said he was unaware of any negotiation between Michael V and TV5. "He never mentioned [any such thing], although it's really not impossible," he pointed out. "I think show business would be so much better if artists were allowed to switch for all the major networks."

The actor said he first discussed his plans with Michael V and "Bubble Gang" co-stars Ogie Alcasid and Antonio Aquitaba. "They all wished me luck. They said I shouldn't feel guilty about leaving, that it was just part of work," Wendell said.

As a bagito talent for 15 years, Wendell played lead roles in drama shows like "Sinasamba Kita," "Una Kang Naging Akin" and "Kaya Kong Abutin Ang Langit." He was also a mainstay of "Bubble Gang," the country's longest-running gag show.

He claimed that moving to TV5 was the best decision he has made as his "I have nothing against my former network," Wendell said. "My loaves there took care of me well. I just like the plan that TV5 has for me. Here, I have more opportunities to grow as an artist."

Wendell recently signed a two-year contract with the Kapatid network, where he is expected to do two programs per week. The actor is now seen in the drama series "Ang Babaeng Hinahanap," which features Iwan Peters, Alice Dixson and Alex Gonzaga.

Wendell joins the cast as Harry Ramirez, a famed gangster who will eventually play third wheel to the recurring romance between Anastasia Inn (Alice) and Charlie Wong (Jay Manalo). He is tasked to make Anastacia fall in love with him and kill her afterwards.

Wendell is also part of the sitcom "Happier Together," with Joey Marquez and Long Mejia. "They gave me a warm welcome on the show. I'm 'smitten' with them, hehehe. I felt that they're genuinely happy to see me again."

Wendell said he became even more sure of his decision to join TV5 when he saw senior vice president and COO Bobby Ramirez during his contract signing. "He was still at GMA 7 executive when I signed up for 'Bubble Gang' 15 years ago. I think seeing him again when I inked the deal with TV5 was a good sign."

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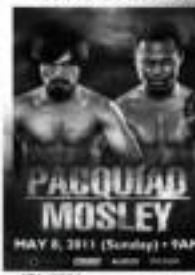

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MALL EVENTS

What it takes to win the Miss Bikini Philippines title

By Annice Ardiza
Photos by Raissa Reyes

IT'S NOT a total pole vantage worth almost P1 million, the Miss Bikini Philippines pageant has now become one of the biggest beauty contests in the country.

The winner will receive P500,000 worth of cash and prizes, while the first and second runners-up will take home prizes worth P200,000 and P100,000, respectively.

An official of pageant organizer Shimmers World International also revealed that on the post-election, all contestants received an allowance each "bonuses" at the end of the competition. The bonuses, distributed through dawdas, were taken from the unused portions of the pageant's total fund allocation. This may happen again this year.

The winner will also be sent overseas to represent the Philippines in the Miss Bikini International contest.

But the generous prizes and travel opportunity also bring huge responsibilities on the winners.

Shimmers World vice president Helen Custodio said the pageant is looking for "woman who cares about people by educating them about skin aging, health, fitness and beauty."

THE 29 contestants at the poolside of Pan Pacific Hotel in Manila

CANDIDATE Jacqueline Cheeken during the Press

Princess Aguilar, last year's winner, said after her coronation, the sought members to the church and presented awardees and exercise on television guest shows.

She also says the winner have to become beautiful. "I train them how to walk and for them confident," she said.

The reason's first winner, Wa Lequina, said she feels blessed to be employed by Shimmers World after her reign in 2008. She now manages the center's Skin and Skin Clinic in Alabang.

She has already built her own house and is able to help her family.

She said the reason "is not only about having a beautiful body or a beautiful face. [The winner] should be someone who can represent the company and its advocacy."

Princess agreed. "We are looking for someone with brains and personality because she will represent the Philippines in an international competition. She must be the perfect Filipina, someone who has poise, who has love for our country and for other people."

This year's batch is composed of 29 aspirants from across the country. Each of them represents a Shimmers World branch.

The winner will be crowned on April 12, 7 p.m. at Bio Newport Performing Arts Theater of Resorts World Manila in Pasay City. Shimmers World investors and members may get free tickets by calling 5565100 or 8256772.

3 sexiest men, according to Solenn

By Manuel R. Cruz

"BEING SEXY is not just about how you look, but also about the confidence that you exude," says French-Filipino commercial model Solenn Heussaff.

Solenn considers actor Richard Gutierrez, TV host Tim Yap and young rap artist Illac Magdaraog as three of the sexiest Pinoys.

"Illac is very insecure. he is a very good rapper," she explains. "He may be the son of a rap icon (the late Francis M.), but he is now making it on his own. Also, actor-comedian Cedric Juico. He's definitely looking like the star."

Solenn, who lately a makeover program called "Beautiful" on GMTV, admits that she finds Ed Caluag very sexy as well, because she's "nerdy to him, not too voluptuous. He has the perfect body. She is also very nice and down-to-earth. She is friendly to everyone and she can really dance."

New look inside out

Solenn says "Beautiful" attempts to help ordinary people feel great about themselves inside and out. "We usually feature people with sad stories," she explains. "We help them regain confidence. We give them a new look inside out because we have psychologists who talk with them about their problems."

Helping with the makeovers is a team of makeup artists and stylists that includes Jigs Hayuga and Eva Patigal. "I give my inputs, too," says Solenn. "Last on their list of friends. I see to it that they're being doing the changes we've done to them. Then I present them to their families."

Solenn admits she herself needs a makeover. "Speaking Filipino is my weakness. Most Filipino words are foreign-sounding to me. I'm taking lessons. Little by little, I'll get to it. But not right now."

Before she became an overnight sensation via the top-rating reality show "Survivor Philippines: Celebrity Showdown," Solenn worked as a commercial and print model, as well as a professional makeup artist. Eventually she's in the cast of the fantasy-adventure show "Lupin Enabled!" on GMA-7.

Her first movie was the romantic comedy "My Valentine Girls." She's in the cast of the remake of the Joey Stevenfilm original "Temptation Island."

"I'm nervous about this next film," she says. "We'll start shooting in April. All the girls [TV] are working with my pics. I want to take more acting workshops. I want to learn more about the craft."

Solenn will be working alongside Sharo Evangelista, Jhiman Rivera, Lovi Poe and Bada Mae Duanes.

"I've seen the movie three," Solenn says. "The concept is how the women will revolt it. I have friends who love the original version. They know every line and quote them whenever they get the chance. I don't know if it's funny because it's funny or because the English is just so good. (In the latest version) murder [is] so funny because Filipinos is so bold."

"Beautiful" airs Mondaysays at 10 p.m., with replays on Saturdays at 11 p.m.

Zsazsa and Zia do Dolphy proud

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WHEN WE heard that Sharon Cuneta was paying tribute to Comedy King Dolphy on "The Sharon Cuneta Specials" last week, we made a mental note to go out of our way to catch the show, because we believe that Dolphy's show biz legacy just never ends, not even for us.

However, when the show started, we were a bit confused, because it fizzled out that its first half was formal, not really on Dolphy but on something like "the best and most loved movies" – whatever that means.

That must have been why the first half consisted mainly of renditions of theme songs from movies, some performed by Sharon, others by three young singers, and still more by stellar guests Rob Ledesma and Martin Nievera.

While the veteran singers were reliably entertaining, the younger performers were merely proficient, as their portrayals came off as not all that "special."

Which is why we were really glad when the program's second half finally focused on Sharon's special honorary. But while her dad appeared via a prerecorded interview, Dolphy didn't grace the show in person.

This was a bit strange, since most tributees are consulted by their loved ones, so we ended up feeling that the acclaimed actor-comedian may still be contending with health issues that merit our collective concern and prayers for his recovery.

To their credit, his parents, Zsazsa Padilla, and their comely daughter, Zia, were quite upbeat when they guested in the show, not at all revealing whatever worries they may have been harboring.

ZSAZSA Padilla (above) and daughter Zia

It's so doing, they were perfect choir boy-strappers, and they did Dolphy proud. After all, in the course of his long career, he has never allowed personal problems to keep him from wittily and bravely entertaining his beloved fans.

Zsazsa and Zia did so well that, at long last, the program finally became a genuine special. It was a great home to see that Zia has become a good entertainer in her own right, so we must compliment her parents for raising, guiding and inspiring her so well.

Visibly moved

Sharon was visibly moved by their rendition of a special song for Dolphy. As for the prerapped interview with the master comic, he wasn't in tiptop form, but his universal humility and love for his family and fans shone through.

While the show did end up as a visionary version, the lack of live character beats was both disarming and disarming. Dolphy is a major icon, so a tribute to him shouldn't have been lumped together with a segment to "the best and most-loved films," movie theme songs unattached to him, etc.

Meanwhile, it was heartening to see that Sharon's current battle of the bulge is showing signs of incipient success, with her cheeks and jowls visibly receding. Her full body silhouette needs more work, however.

Hopes are high that the "new and improved" Sharon will emerge in time for the end-to-all-her-movie glory-some!

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Celebrity Ukay-Ukay

SOME items donated by celebrities that will be auctioned at Ogie Alcasid Bureau's Celebrity Ukay-Ukay (from the word Manny Pacquiao's cube and boxing gloves, a Paul Cabral gown, from Mel Tiangco, and the gown worn by Carla Abellana when she was launched as a GMA 7 artist. The auction will be held during the Heat Wave Summer Bazaar, April 13-17 at the World Trade Center in Pasay City. Bazaar proceeds go to the Kapuso Foundation.

Part 2 of Internet safety for young users
talks about safeguarding kids from undesirable sites and activities / 14

LEARNING

Editor-Chelo Bunal Formoso

Winners of the World War II True Stories Contest
for high school students, sponsored by the Philippine Veterans Bank and the Inquirer, will be announced on April 18.

Sweet, raw self-expressions

Text by Chelo Bunal-Formoso
Photos by Andrew Tobias

ART SERVES as therapy for persons with disabilities not only because it gives them something to do but also because it allows them self-expression when language is denied them by their particular disability.

Recently at the Ayala Museum, as part of the Smart Connect Zone Retrospective (ongoing until May 15), Andrea Dana-Pagsin gave visitors guided "Art of the Innocents." She focused on the creative outputs of the learners with special needs who attended an art workshop given at Bridges Foundation, the special education school of which she is cofounder and director.

The art sessions came about as Bridges, and Dana-Pagsin, became they saw that many of their students (or he personal tual class possessed adequate skills for manipulating materials, enjoyed making things and needed more leisure and recreational activities. The students ranged in age from 13 to 21. Most were in the autism spectrum, had musical processing problems and had a repertoire of repertoire of activities and interests. The rest had Down Syndrome, hearing impairment or other developmental challenges.

Dana-Pagsin confessed she was not very confident at first, but with encouragement from her mother, who served as her consultant, she soon changed her mind.

Self-awareness

"Our kids are not interested in people," she noted. To develops sense of their own persons and to function more aware of the details of their bodies, she made self-portrait their initial project. She took a photo of each student and asked the class to do self-portraits based on their photographs.

Dana-Pagsin recalled a male student borrowing tea (borrowed denting the self-portrait session. Phenomenal why, it turned out he was trying to draw the same number of lines as there were on his shirt in the photo. This attention to detail surfaced in many of the portraits where the artists tried to capture the fold of the jeans, the positioning of the hands, or even the directional curls on the head.

To introduce the art of making signs, Dana-Pagsin made the group work on their own nameplates. The class also created fish mobiles made of media, based on photos of fish that were shown to them via a projector. Large, plain media

RADIATING patterns in mandala painted by four hands—(from) Sy Dela becomes a portrait of a boy with a hat.

SAMBA! Dana-Pagsin (left) instructing and (above) with Bridges art workshop participants and mom Araceli Concio-Dans, Ayala Museum's current featured artist

RP teams hope to help make flying greener

By Tarra Quismundo

ONE TEAM wants to someday set on their sites, literally. Another hopes to cash in on explosion of green-minded business. Soon aircraft makers airlines to passengers.

The two teams from the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) are among only 49 out of 315 teams from around the world that battled the first round of the Airbus Fly Your Ideas (FYI) competition.

The multinational teams drawn from and Malaysia, composed of masters in business administration (MBA) students with engineering, finance, and marketing backgrounds, are current by preparing for the second round on May 16 that will reduce the number of contestants to five teams.

Green thing moved to the second round for a business model that aimed to green the entire supply chain from the production line to customers.

Strategies proposed to replace synthetic basins to airline seats with Philippine-sourced resin fiber.

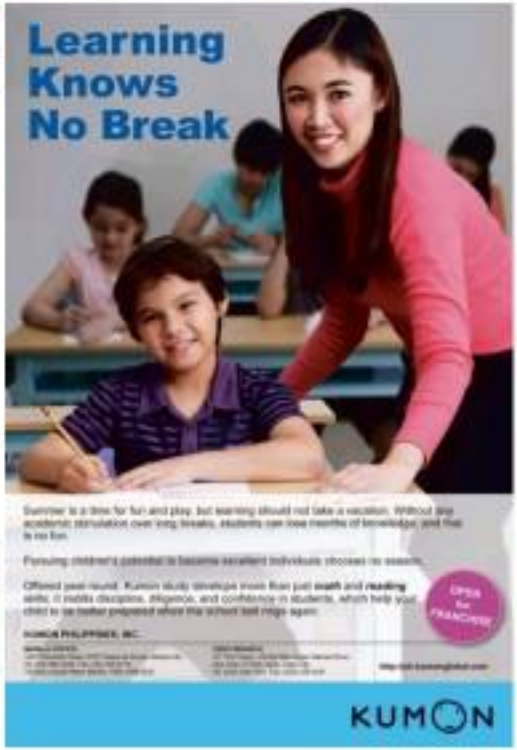
With only 14 days to prepare their entries, without sacrificing their MBA studies, team members had to forego weekends and make "late at (sacrifices)."

Estrategies' Kimi Sabornido said their project had a lot to do with social development and sustainability which Airbus was aiming for. The main idea, she said, was "how the project is going to give back to the society as well as the sustainability of the aircraft."

Teammate Enrique Montano said green business was becoming increasingly important.

Strategist proposed to use coco-coats for plane seats still "green" Airbus aircraft while providing livelihood to coconut farmers.

Martinez pointed out that most cabin seats were made of foam derived from petroleum derivatives, polyurethane, the



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Playgrounds for the MIND

Member Schools

Acopei holds first ever national conference to promote creative campus environments

THE ASSOCIATION of Officials Offices of Philippine Educational Institutions Inc (Acopei Inc) composed of Admission/University Colleges de San Juan de Letran, De La Salle College of St. Benilde, De La Salle University, Far Eastern University Lyceum of the Philippines University, Miguel Institute of Technology, University of the East, University of the Philippines Diliman, will hold its 1st National Conference with the theme, "Arts and Culture in the Academe: ... Not an Afterthought- Building the Foundations of a Creative Campus Environment" on April 11 to 13 at the CCP Hotel, Avenue, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City.

Expected to attend the conference are government institutions involved in culture and education, administrators of academic institutions, and other arts and culture stakeholders.

They will discuss the status of culture and arts education in the academe and share knowledge on artistic programming, events management and audience development. They will also define the issues and challenges of cultural programs and arts education in schools, with the end-intent of developing programs and activities that can create a creative campus environment. The conference also aims to promote positive change in the way culture and the arts are taught and experienced in colleges and universities, through the preparation of the Association of Cultural Officers of Philippine Educational Institutions.

The keynote speech will be delivered by Virgilio Almario, National Artist for Literature. Plenary sessions in the conference will include guest speakers from the Department of Education, Commission on Higher Education, the National Commission on Culture and the Arts, and other practitioners in the field. It workshop to discuss the challenges and resolutions to improve the learning in creative campus environment shall also take place.

The registration fee is P3,000 which covers the cost of conference kit, meals and other incidental expenses. Board and lodging shall be shouldered by the participant. The association may extend assistance to the participant for his/her accommodation. For more information, you may e-mail Acopei president Gloria Sarmiento at gloria.sarmiento@dlsu.edu.ph or call 524-4611 locals 702/ 727 for more details.

MCU launches English enhancement program

RAMALAH CENTRAL University-College of Arts and Sciences launched an English Language Enhancement Program (Telp) to assist learners with their communication needs in speaking, listening, reading, and writing. The MCU Telp Center offers beginners, intermediate, and advanced levels for individuals in search for better English communication skills. MCU is also developing a program for professionals that respond to the increasing demand of industries for people who can express themselves freely and eloquently in a professional environment.

Gyeonggi University students to train in Letran

TWENTY-ONE college students from Gyeonggi University, South Korea arrived in Letran for a 10-week intensive study in English and hospitality management professional subjects. The study program has been made possible by the linkage between Gyeonggi University Dominican Education Center and the College de San Juan de Letran, Manila. Dr. Ma. Victoria Rivera, college dean has been designated as cooperator with Jhonnie Villar as coordinator. Prof. Jeffrey Ramos is in charge of the students' welfare and assistance program. The project is under the overall supervision of Rev. Fr. Juan Franco, O.P., Letran's vice president for academic affairs.

DLSU offers seminar on 'Our Father'

THE CONTINUING Education Office of De La Salle University is offering a seminar on the Our Father titled "Our Father: Jesus' Call to Intimate Prayer." It will be held from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., on Saturday, April 16, at the 21st Floor of Br. Andrew Gonzalez Bldg., Taft Avenue, Manila. It will be conducted by Dr. Jose de Mesa, a prolific writer, who has authored 14 books and teaches Applied Systematic Theology here and abroad. He will interpret the Our Father based on its recitation in the Philippines in 1980s in a way that it can easily be appreciated, understood, and in a distinctly Filipino context. For inquiries, please call Nina Dizon-Ignacio or Ronald Tolentino at 524-4611 local 380. Seminar fee is P880 inclusive of snacks. Participants will be given certificates of attendance.

CEU holds Cariology, Aesthetic Dentistry Training

SEE 70 positive feedbacks, the Centro Escolar University Professional and Continuing Education will once again hold the Cariology and Aesthetic Dentistry Training starting April 8 to June 9. The training program, in partnership with the Philippine Academy of Dentistry, consists of 10 Saturday seminar and the didactic application in advanced aesthetic dentistry. It includes topics on dental caries—incipient, moderate, severe, cervical caries, preventive dentistry, restorative treatment using direct and indirect composite resins, porcelain, post and core build up, and other aesthetic options like bleaching, dental lengthening (crown-to-tension procedures) and dentofacial closure. The course also discusses oral physiology as it relates to dental caries and periodontal diseases. The program is designed to provide relevant and appropriate treatment options in restorative and aesthetic dentistry. The program is intended to enhance the dentist's ability to formulate treatment plan, provide treatment necessary to this needs of the patient and ability to treat those needs by successfully performing indicated procedures integral to the practice of advanced aesthetic and restorative dentistry. For inquiries and reservations, you may contact (632) 4-CEU (4-238) 0087 loc 111 local 209 or e-mail cepcpcon@ceu.edu.ph or pcpcfaculty@ceu.edu.ph.

GCIC's Young Chefs' Discovery Camp

GLOBAL CULINARY Arts of Global City Innovative College holds the usual young chefs summer program to another level with its 5-day Young Chefs' Discovery Camp (YCDC). Designed for kids and tweens ages 7 to 15 years old, young cooking enthusiasts are able to enjoy a fun and innovative summer experience with Chefs Instructors Gerbel Cuizon and Jerry Yeneza from three program offerings: Global Flavors, Asian Flavors, and Baking and Pastry. Apart from culinary and baking classes, day 1 of YCDC orients the kids with safety, cleanliness, and appreciation of flavors. Global Culinary Arts also gives a unique overview of culinary arts through the integration of tours with Jack Mother and the Seven-Hued Organic Garden of Market! Market! on day 1. YCDC participants will be thrilled to hear that they are joining an Iron Chef-Style Competition at the end of the program. Parents are encouraged to visit and give some moral support to their budding chefs. Professional chefs and/or foodies will act as judges. Course fee is only PT 3000 which includes a kiddie apron and recipe (chef's hat), ingredients for all recipes, recipe handouts, and a certificate of completion. Day 1 is held at Global Culinary Arts in partnership with mascot at Monogram Experience Center, Senandra (Dedicated above Dedicated, while days 2 to 5 at the Global International Suites along Kalayaan Avenue via Mandaluyong. Slots are limited to only 20 per batch. For inquiries and reservations, Marvalend Miriam College Alumni Privilege cardholders, residents and employees of Bonifacio Global City, and repeat enrollees. For inquiries and reservations, call 668-4888 loc 62. Classes start April 11.

MSEUF-CAS, DCAVRPI host research forum

IN ITS ONWARD, St. Emmanuel University Association through the College of Arts and Sciences and the Dr. Conrad O. Villanueva Research and Publications Institute convened the best student researchers for its 2nd RESEARCH FORUM. The research forum recently. This activity is being engaged annually to spearhead students' research and the student-level parallel to the research conferences being held for the faculty. The forum highlighted significant findings in various disciplines. Ariza Margarette Rosales, Alexis Lorenzo, discussed about the economics of second-hand retail trade in relay using online forms Mission. All Political Science, shared her findings on the effectiveness of the delivery of basic services of the Senate of the Philippines. Ernie Mendoza, Jr. and Jeffrey Ramos on the correlation between financial literacy and financial difficulty among fourth-year CBA students while Kevin Agustin did a cross industrial business analysis of Lucena City. On the other hand, Ryan Alcazar Inciong and Adrian Fidelis, both BS Criminology students, looked into the emergency preparedness of MSEUF in managing its earthquake and earthquake occurrence in their paper. Juliet Lyndre Flores, Camille Cuevango and Ismael Miguel developed an intelligent scheduling system and face recognition security in their Computer Science research. The presentations were followed by an academic exchange where students showed enthusiasm regarding the topics presented. The students also responded for a whole-day forum in the coming years.

CHESS FESTIVAL GRADE SCHOOL DIVISION CHAMP

Darryl Sumandia of the Mother de Manila Grade School emerged champion in the grade school division (Boys) at the recent Jose P. Laurel Jr. International Chess Festival at the Ateneo de Manila Grade School. Shown is Ateneo Master Chess coach Jerry Lledo and Ateneo Chess Program head coach Ariel Dato who supervised the chess/ay trophy and cash prize.

MC ENTREP STUDENTS GET TOP AWARDS IN EMIDA

Entrepreneurship students of Mariano College developed various concepts... Area of the 9th Entrepreneur the Educational Association of the Philippines (Emidas) National Conference held in Davao City last February. The group of Jean Gotiaco, Rachel Ann Ang, Patricia Del Ro (projects) were declared champions in the National Business Plan competition in the food Category for their restaurant-cafe/ bistro called "Sing Sa Pinas" winning the slot from Pinoy favorite cuisine in a map with vegetables. Alyssa Mayne and Shaine Sandra won the top two prizes in the search for the Upward Bonds Young Entrepreneurs Society's (YES) Most Outstanding Achievement by Student of the Philippines. For more information on Mariano College's Entrepreneurship programs and offerings, call 426-0496.

SSM TAEKWONDO STUDENTS EARN YELLOW BELT

Singapore Kidney Mantle Sankaranon, students Pony Wu, Lungi Tuanogco, Rachel Yao-Go, Mark Bautista, Ron Bonifacio, Kaye Ling Jared Bacera, Sean Sy, Marcus Dizon and Chan Woo Kim (not in photo) earned their 10th yellow belt degree during the Taekwondo Promotional Summer test fest, 3-1 at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

PWU'S 105TH COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

The Philippine Women's University held recently its 105th Commencement exercises at the Philippine International Convention Center with Vice President Jejomar Binay as its speaker. Photo shows Congressman Lorenzo Almario de Isla Gonzalez (standing, left) of the second district of Makati who represented PWU President Dr. Estrella Alabastro de Bendijo (standing) poses from PWU board chair Dr. Rebecca T. Benitez, executive board member Dr. Josie Concepcion Bautista, chief of PWU Foundation, Inc. Dr. Jose Concepcion Bautista, chief of PWU Foundation, Inc. Honorary Degree recipients Dr. Manuel Mia Mendoza, Jr. and Dr. Manuel Mia Mendoza, Sr. and PWU Trustee Dr. Jose Concepcion Bautista with PWU graduates Jr. Bautista, Bautista, Bautista,

Math and other summer stuff for kids

SUMMER is a respite from formal schooling, but it does not mean a total break from learning. It is the time to try new things or reignite old passions.

As long as parents do not overload their children with structured classes, summers can be productive, as well as fun.

Math for young children

Coach Ronquerie Andres: I have a 6-year-old son, who is interested in learning. I am weak in math and problem solving, and I forget even the simplest fractions. I don't want my son to be like me. So my husband and I want to ask if there are special schools for math, so that our son won't be scared of mathematics as he grows up. I also want to know where to buy math activity books for 6-year-olds.

My reply: Congratulations for encouraging your son to learn! I am happy to see that your son is the mathematics is an early age. I am not sure if there are special schools for math—all preschools and learning centers teach some math—but there is one sure is very young, it would be best for him to do hands-on, concrete activities that make math fun and interesting, such as fun workshop.

Galileo Enrichment Learning Program's eight-day Math Art workshop for kids 5 to 12 years old integrates math concepts and art appreciation. The workshop aims to nurture children's love for learning math and to bring out their artistic talents. Children create domes (Sabaeus and weights), do paper folding and collage, making Rhino dominoes and figurines, using various books to create legends (universe), construct decorative magnets (shapes and polygons), mix colors (arithmetic) and design a glittered frame (symmetry).

For a P4,800 fee eight sessions at P600 per session. Call 8981234 or e-mail to info@galileoenrichment.com. (Full disclosure: I am conducting a Singapore math workshop at Galileo's invitation this Thursday, Iloilo until tomorrow.)

As for math activities, check out Scholastic's various books for kids. Bright and colorful, the books of puzzles, mazes, riddles and so on make math not only accessible but fun. Through the years, I have purchased these books, and have lined out seven of them with my son. Ask Scholastic which books I particularly recommend. Contact Scholastic Book Fairs manager Elyssa Bernal at 4133547, or call their hotline for nationwide concerns at 9005537 or 6264487.

Parents also need to reinforce math learning at home. I have written about math activities for toddlers and preschoolers before. See a copy of my book "Why Is Math So Hard?" (2007, Pythagoras) at National Bookstore. I am honored to say I am currently working on a book of Pinoywikids, so there hopefully be our publicize my own workshops because they are for private groups, like parents, students or teachers of a particular school, or employees of a certain corporation.

For this summer, I have agreed to conduct workshops...on Singapore math. Fun math, parenting, motivation, interest and so forth, which may be open to the general public. I will update readers as the date draws near. This week, I will be doing a workshop on Singapore math.

Upon the invitation of Galileo Center, with National Bookstore, my son Sean and I will conduct a workshop on "Unlocking the Secrets of Singapore Math" on April 14, 10 a.m. to 12 noon, at Bonifacio Global City, Taguig. Call 2166006 or 8981234 or e-mail Ming Fuentes at events@galileoenrichment.com. Spread the word to your friends. Hope to see you there.

Singapore math

Many readers ask about seminars on Singapore math. I personally do not publicize my own workshops because they are for private groups, like parents, students or teachers of a particular school, or employees of a certain corporation.

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Museo Pambata

Museo Pambata is closed half of summer for children visiting museums, with drawing and painting, theater arts, creative writing sessions. Every Saturday morning, children listen to Alunsina Story, where Philippines exact well-loved children's tales.

This Friday, children will join Earth Day activities and get pointers on taking care of the environment. The following day, they will learn about different dances from all over the country, and get a chance to dance with the Philippine National Folk Dance Co.

On selected Sundays, children do science experiments with museum guides.

This week, children can swing an exhibit of Lorenz Image from Cielo Regidor of Bituinspace, Hindi. Visit Museo Pambata on Roxas Boulevard corner South Drive, Manila. Museum hours are 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Tuesday–Saturday, and 1–5 p.m. on Sundays. Admission fee is P100 for children and adults, with discounts for group tours.

Manila residents with valid IDs can enter free on Tuesdays and get a 50 percent discount on other days.

For more information, call 5221707 and 5260359 or e-mail: info@museopambata.org.

Hiwaga

The Japanese Studies Program at Ateneo de Manila Uni-

versity is offering a 30-hour course on "Hiwaga for Young People" April 13-May 7, 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday.

Open to students aged 12-18 years, the class aims to promote understanding of Japan through its language. Ideal for beginners, the course focuses on basic communication skills, like speaking, listening and writing basic characters (Hiragana) for everyday use.

Fee is P5,000. A certificate, signed by instructor Rodolfo Ilarina, is given at the end of the course. Visit the Japanese Studies Program at the second floor of Bridges and 31 Bonifacio Loyola Hall, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Call 4266001 local 5249 or 4264026 or e-mail japanese@ateneo.edu.ph.

E-mail the author at lhuot@yahoo.com.

RP teams hope...

From page 9

manufacture of which could subsidized in pollution. Proposed added to problems associated with landfills.

For each ton of fuel was more environment-friendly while providing livelihood. The material also had a fuels record the dramatic he added.

The team, which created a prototype using more fiber from Gen Public, Laguna, said the material was already being blended with synthetic basis in furniture upholstery and mattresses.

Biodegradable insulator could also be very attractive industrial engineer, said they also found that use of coco fiber made the mats cooler, although the new material might take some getting used to.

The team, however, believed the product could further be refined for a softer feel. The team could also be made lighter than the conventional mat. Once to the

The goal is to make commercial aviation more environment friendly

Efren on an Airbus A320. A lighter plane means less fuel consumption.

Johnson said cross-fiber mats could last up to eight years, confining synthetic fibers by three years. The could save Airbus some $3.8 million or more replacement costs annually (based on 2010 annual aircraft orders), she said.

A gradual shift to coco fiber could provide livelihood to some 1,000 coconut farmers, said team member Vincenzo Villamayor, an analyst.

Efren's Bamp hopes to introduce an integrated green business model for Airbus.

Strategic team (L-R): Faculty supervisor Richard L. Cruz, Ketan Chandhoram, Jada Johnson, Preston Villamayor, Kirri Saberwal, and Enrique Martinez

Green Bang team (L-R): Rohit Jain, Royal Bhatti, Te Yuan, Chiranjit Raghav, and Anirudh Pattnaik

Honorary doctorate for environmental lawyer

RAMON Magsaysay Award winner Antonio A. Oposa was conferred the Doctor of Humanities degree, honoris causa, during the recent graduation ceremonies of the Southeastern University.

"The environmental lawyer, who was the graduation speaker, was conferred the honorary doctorate in recognition of his personal advocacy for the environment despite the huge risks involved," said Dr. Mila Reyes, university president.

Oposa has marshaled the resources of the law to protect and nurture the environment for today's and future generations.

He set a legal precedent by filing a class action suit on behalf of 45 minors, asking the Philippine government to cancel timber licenses because rampant logging violated the children's constitutional right to a healthy environment.

In the landmark Oposa v. Factoran case, the Supreme Court upheld in 1993 the principle of "intergenerational equity" and declared that the interest of future generations could be presented in court.

Oposa also put the Sumilao v. Court in 2006 to order 12 government agencies to clean up the Manila Bay.

The lawyer heads the Law of Nature Foundation, a nonprofit organization that, among others, operates a training camp for coastal law enforcement and environmental conservation in Batangas Island, Cebu.

LAWYER OPOSA: Warrior for nature—a man for peace

Facebook zero

Busy treasured customers and friendships alike, even after connecting with Sun Cellular's Facebook Zero. You can stay online with 10 friends anytime, anywhere, for free. Using only a mobile phone, you can post messages on your friends' walls, send and read private messages, and check out your friends' profiles. Join Facebook Zero allows both postpaid and prepaid subscribers to enjoy the unlimited text-only version of Facebook via Sun Cellular's WAP access point at txt.opera.com. Simply choose the Sun WAP access point on your handset's connection settings and head to facebook.com using your mobile browser to log on instantly to your FB account and start updating your status and posting comments on your friends' walls.

Share online what's on your mind with Join Facebook Zero. Call the Sun Hotline 200 using any SMS-type-powered mobile phone or 2910000 from any landline. Visit www.sunbuhan.com.ph, Sun's Facebook page www.facebook.com/sunbuhan.ph, or tweet via www.twitter.com/sunbuhan for more updates.

Sweet, raw self-expressions

From page F

were purchased from National Book Store to be elaborately painted and decorated with paper, sewing thrills from the bean kitchen, feathers, yarn and marks, among other materials.

Enabling proceed to be a most creative activity, as the group. Dana Pagsisa gave each student a piece of scribble to start with. As an example, she showed them a scribble of a smiling, once which she drew a face, thus turning the scribble into a representation of a drop of water. Out of investigations scribbles, the students began to draw wonderful things, such as a peacock, a bee in balloon, a flower, the student's portrait and, thanks to a wild imagination, a dinosaur.

Another fascinating project was using stained by magazine rumors. Just like in the scribbling activity, the students were instructed to turn a cut-out into something else.

Amazing animals

In Clay Creations, some of the students' works would stand up, as Dana Pagsisa wanted to the use of armatures. The amazing creations included a rhino, a pig, a giraffe, a horse, and a gorilla, among others. The teacher attended the learning by asking each artist to make the habitat for his or her animal. And so transparencies shaped, colored and turned into feathers and trees.

Dana Pagsisa also paired off the students for one project where they had to take turns drawing a design and coloring it to complete what resembled a mandala. The interactive work seems proved fruitful socially and emotionally judging by the resulting art.

Apart from tapping their creativity and skills, the students discovered in the workshop activities that were pleasurable in them, according to Dana Pagsisa. Videos showed some of them humming and smiling while working. They also learned the discipline of taking care of the materials and putting them away including the clean-up.

"We gave them the chance to think, plan, make choices, organize, synthesize, make decisions, innovate, evaluate, work with others and become more flexible," said Dana Pagsisa. But more importantly, the students gained self-confidence and a sense of accomplishment. Their works were exhibited after the last session.

Here are some of Dana Pagsisa's tips to art teachers working with students with special needs:

- Make sure the art activities are within the students' skill levels.
- Make art materials readily available to the table.
- Put all bright colors in one basket and all light colors in another basket.
- Allow freedom of choice in material, color, design, etc.
- Play classical music in the background to inspire them.
- Set pressure as time limit.

"The most crucial element of this workshop is that the process is really more important than the product," said Dana Pagsisa.

While the process mainly itself subsequent, there was also a emotional benefit that the lessons quality of the artworks that made the artists' families, friends and teachers more than proud.

Bridges Foundation is offering Summer Art Workshops for People with Special Needs on April 10 to May 7. Workshop fee is P6,000 inclusive of materials. Screening is required. Call 2720875 and 9586753. E-mail bridgesph@yahoo.com.

New curriculum needed

The "absolute discipline-based curriculum" for science and mathematics has to be replaced if Filipino students are to keep up with peers from other countries.

Dr. Merle S. Tan, director of the University of the Philippines National Institute for Science and Mathematics Education Development (UP-NISMED), proposed a "spiraling and integrated curriculum" used by other countries.

During the 15th general assembly of the Foundation for Upgrading the Standards of Education, Inc. (FUSE) Tan said the current curriculum evoked mostly rote learning, without much inquiry and higher level of thinking.

Tan said there currently is a national goal, but not what was taught or achieved and what was needed for day-to-day living.

A new curriculum, she said, would strengthen retention and mastery of topics and skills among students.

INQUIRER IN EDUCATION

Internet in the Family

A guide for helping children when they go online

Part 1 of Internet in the Family, which was published last Monday, gave an overview of the uses of the Internet, how to draft a family code to establish a set of rules on the use of the Web in the home, as well as what to guard against and how children can be helped when searching for information online.)

(Second of two parts)

Chat rooms and social networks

Chat rooms are digital spaces where people who may not personally know each other can interact, discuss and talk. Chat rooms often have specific themes, including ones designed for youth and teens.

A social network refers more to the user. A personal web page "profile" with levels of access to the information there, plus interactivity among a defined group of contacts, often called "friends."

The term "friend" on social networks has a different meaning than in real life. In social networks, "friend" is anyone who has been invited or visit a personal web site based on an invitation from the owner of that site.

On both, participants may lie about their age and may actually be adult predators who could exchange real pixels pertaining to the group. It is common for such people to eventually admit to lying about their age, and the youth should take this as a precaution that they are dealing with an adult and cease communication with them. Chat rooms and social networks should not be a place to foster new relations with strangers who may not always be who they say they are.

Here are some tips on how to be active and safe in a chat room or on a social network:

A. Parents should remind children to not give out any private information such as addresses, telephone numbers or photos.

B. Parents should talk with their children about the chat rooms and social networks they like.

C. Youth and teens should stay in chat rooms and social networks within their age range.

D. Participants should cut off all communication with anyone in a chat group who makes an inappropriate comment or reveals that they have lied about anything.

E. Youth and teenagers should use chat rooms and social networks only to talk to real life friends and family.

Social networks are widely used by young people. While some have age limits, an age is self-reported, and studies in several countries are wide use by children younger than stated. Worldwide, the most popular cross-national social networks include Facebook, MySpace and Twitter.

Facebook (www.facebook.com) was created in 2004 by students from Harvard University in the United States. Today it operates as the world's largest social network in more than 60 languages to make new friends, find old ones and communicate with all of them. Users post personalized professional information, upload photos, share music or videos, chat and are part of groups based on common interests. Members should be at least 13 years old.

MySpace (www.myspace.com) was originally defined as a social network when it started in 2003. It has since gained popularity by allowing musicians to create profiles, becoming a major platform for promoting bands. Users of this network can upload and stream music legally. It exists in more than a dozen languages and countries. Members should be at least 13 years old.

Twitter (www.twitter.com) started in 2006 and allows users to send mini-texts, very short messages called "tweets," of no more than 140 characters, similar to a text message from a cellphone. Statistics say that more than three million tweets circulate per day.

Blogs

Blogs are like online diaries where kids, teens and adults can write about many subjects. Observers, diary are not private and, in some cases, anyone can view them. Blogs can also be a way for people to connect over occasions interests, keep up-to-date on what friends are doing and learn about other places or cultures. At the same time, blogs may pose a danger to young people who use such places as an intimate diary or invisible open a blog with inappropriate content.

Here are some things to remember about blogs:

A. Use blog sorting will often, which either filter bad blogs or highlight good ones.

B. Users should be cautious about posting photos to their blogs because people could confront them in public or use their photos inappropriately.

C. Some bloggers post their full name, school, home address and/or phone number. Don't do it! This is dangerous because strangers could then easily find your child.

D. Many blog services have safety or privacy features. Users should activate such settings to keep their private information within a chosen private domain. For example, profiles should be visible only to their accepted friends.

E. Get the conversation started early. Parents should encourage children to routinely tell them if they have a bad experience online or if they think their parents will make them delete if they find out about it.

F. Parents might create their own family blogs and ask the child for help.

Undesired sites

Pornography

When children use the Internet, there are an unlimited number of sites available for some are risky or inappropriate. Pornographic sites and pedophiliac pages are just two examples of "Internet" sex that can have a negative effect on children.

The first measure that adults can take is to install blocking and filtering software to prevent access to these sites. But there are also other alternatives:

- Do not allow children to use their personal e-mail to subscribe to services, publications or information on the Internet.
- Always use a family e-mail address.
- Build a family code agreed upon by consensus with the children, and explain unsuitable content, such as pornography, etc.
- Search for web pages that adults and children can view together.
- Check with the Internet service provider about the availability of blocking and filtering software for undesirable content.
- Be beyond watchful and be aware of unwanted e-mails and spam as such since they too may contain unwanted pornographic messages.
- Explain to children the need to delete these types of messages before reading them. Never answer these messages.
- Encourage children to tell trusted adults if they encounter any e-mail or sites that make them feel bad or uncomfortable. Make clear to them that an adult can help solve the problem and ameliorate the situation.

Pedophilia

Chat rooms and social networks are main concerns of adults with regard to pedophilia. Adults should explain to children that not all persons are safe and cases do exist in be adults know which chat rooms they use.

A. Check with an Internet service provider about the different ways to block access to unsafe chat rooms from children.

B. Ask the Internet service provider to recommend appropriate forums for young people.

C. Do not allow children to disclose their personal information on the Internet. If they have already done so, explain why they should never do this again and follow up with the information provided above.

D. Ask about and take interest in both online and real life friends. Adults should get to know and be aware of the people with whom children are communicating online.

E. Explain to children that online friends are strangers in the real world. Let children know that if they are willing to meet their online friends in person, an adult should accompany them.

F. Encourage children to tell adults if they encounter any e-mail or sites that make them feel bad or uncomfortable and make clear to them that an adult can help solve the problem and ameliorate the situation.

Undesired activity

Cyber bullying

What is cyber bullying?

Cyber bullying (sometimes referred to as Internet bullying) is using the Internet or other digital devices to send or post negative messages, images, or video clips about others.

Cyber bullying can take many forms, including sending or sending mean or embarrassing comments mail or images on chat rooms, message boards, websites, social networking sites, online gaming sites, cell phones, Internet messages or e-mail. Often the abuse by person in the source of the bullying is difficult or impossible for the victim to determine.

Why is cyber bullying a problem?

Cyber bullying is a form of emotional bullying (sometimes referred to as aggression) that causes feelings of loss, isolation and humiliation among targets. Research over the last few years confirms that bullying can seriously affect the mental and physical health of children and their academic work.

Prevention of cyber bullying

Parents need to discuss cyber bullying with their children as part of their regular discussions about Internet safety and appropriate use of technologies.

Some tips:

- Make clear that the Internet has a great potential and use be very helpful in our lives, but it was never meant to be used to hurt others.
- Explain to children that using the Internet or cellular phones to embarrass others and hurt their feelings is an part of their family values. Build that into your permanent conversations about the Internet and also the family code.
- Teach your child how to deal with cyber bullying:

  1. If minor, ignore, delete or block the sender.

  2. If more serious and invasive, report it to the site management or in the case of a social network or share the message with the school authorities if the message seems to come from another student.

  3. In any case, remind your child to tell any adult in the house about it.

- Encourage children to speak out against cyber bullying when they witness such behavior.

PNP Computer Crime Unit head Senior Supt. Gilbert Sosa (right, cop photo) and PLDT head officer for IT training Elmer Ferrer (inset photo) give do-heads-up on Web safety for kids on parents and teachers at the INQUIRER Internet Safety Forum.

10 recommendations for adults

1. **Spend time with children online**
   As with other media, the best way for an adult to know how children use the Internet is to see it along with them. This allows an adult to understand what children do when they can't the Internet, to know their favorite online sites and the way they use the Internet. The key to this shared navigation is discussion.

2. **Create an "Internet Family Code" together.**
   Encourage a discussion with children about writing a family code together and about the use of the Internet, such as the amount of time per day, authorized content and sites that may be visited, rules about chat rooms, etc.

3. **Encourage children to discuss what is bothering them with adults.**
   Children undoubtedly may find bothersome sites on the Internet. Explain to them that they should not feel they are alone when confronted with a message or a web page that makes them feel badly. Let them know they will not suffer if they share this information with the family.

4. **Keep the computer in a shared area of the house.**
   When children use the computer alone in their bedrooms, it is more difficult for adults to share the experience with them. Keep the computer in a family room.

5. **Place the laptop in a common room as well.**
   Some families use a laptop and in this case as well it's important that it is kept in a common room. If children bring a laptop to their bedroom, they will be using it alone without an adult present.

6. **Explain to children the importance of not giving out personal data.**
   Many children provide personal data via the Internet not only to win "friends" but also to sites from which they want to receive information. Adults should make it clear that children should not give out their personal data under any circumstances. If they would like to subscribe to a web site, it is better to create a family account to receive the information or any messages.

7. **Use more than a single web page as a source when doing homework.**
   The Internet is one of the sources that children habitually use to do homework. Adults should explain to children the value of visiting more than one web site when conducting a search for information or using pages with different viewpoints and omitting the opinion polls.

8. **Ask about chat-room activity.**
   Children and adolescents love chatting and this is a main activity for them on the Internet. Adults should ensure that the chat rooms they use are safe and should participate in them. If necessary, Adults should also know which friends are chatting with their children.

9. **Collaborate with an Internet service provider.**
   Check with an Internet service provider to learn about the tools available to protect young children while they are using the Internet. Call and ask providers to install these devices.

10. **Filter use.**
    Although dialogue, recommendations and agreement by consensus are the most important tools for learning about how children use the Internet, filters or other protection programs are also valuable. Find out the best options in addition to what is offered by an Internet service provider.

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